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Reportage of Iranian Plane Crash in Karabakh

Armenian Official's Statement

LD1803210194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1904 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 18 TASS—Although Armenia has nothing to do with Thursday's crash of the Iranian aircraft outside its skies, it renders comprehensive assistance to the Iranian authorities in the crash investigation, First Deputy Armenian Foreign Minister Zhirair Liparityan told a briefing for correspondents and representatives of foreign embassies tonight.

In his words, "the Iranian C-130 plane on its way from Moscow to Tehran passed Georgia at 22:08 on March 17 but did not enter the Armenian skies as it was planned. The aircraft deviated from the air corridor by approximately 100 kilometers, entered the Azeri skies and headed for Nagorno-Karabakh."

According to information of the Armenian Foreign Ministry, "the plane crashed approximately 14 kilometers away from Stepanakert, meanwhile the Karabakh Information and Press Department reports the accident place five kilometers away from the Karabakh capital". All the passengers and 14 crew members died.

"The plane carried 31 people," said Liparitayan. He made no further comments, saying he "does not have more information".

A statement of the Armenian Government's Civil Aviation Department was circulated tonight to say "the Iranian plane on its way from Moscow to Tehran deviated from its route by 100 kilometers on unknown reasons at 22:30 on March 17 and found itself in the Karabakh skies. The plane crashed five kilometers away from Stepanakert. Circumstances of the crash are being specified".

AZERTAC Reports Plane 'Accident'

NC1803134994 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1148 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Baku, 18 Mar (AZERTAC)—An Iranian Airlines Company transport plane flying from Moscow to Tehran was involved in an accident over Khankendi [Stepanakert] Rayon at about midnight (2330 Baku time) [1930 GMT] on 17 March.

According to the preliminary information given to an AZERTAC correspondent by the "Azerbaijani Airlines" state concern, the plane left Georgian airspace and entered Armenian airspace. It deviated from its established path and reached the Dakhlyk [Mountainous] Karabakh zone of Azerbaijan. It has been ascertained that the transport plane crashed 3 km from Khankendi.

Tehran Radio Reports

NC1803180094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] An Iranian C-130 aircraft has crashed near Khankendi [Stepanakert] in Karabakh while en route from Moscow to Tehran yesterday. All the passengers and crew were killed in the incident. IRNA has reported that the aircraft carried 32 passengers and that the last time it contacted the control tower at Yerevan Airport was at 1910 GMT.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement regretting the painful incident, in which all the crew and passengers, including family members of the Iranian civil servants in Moscow, were killed. The ministry conveyed condolences to the families of those who have been killed and prayed that they maintain patience.

According to the statement, a special group made up of several air force personnel will leave for Armenia to investigate the cause of the crash.

Armenian Aviation Department Statement

NC1803185594 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1800 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Statement by the Armenian Civil Aviation Department]

[Text] An Iranian C-130 aircraft flying from Moscow to Tehran deviated by some 100 km from its established flight path for as yet unknown reasons, appeared over the airspace of Nagorno-Karabakh, and crashed 5 km from Stepanakert at 2230 [1930 GMT] on 17 March. The circumstances of this incident are being determined.

Yerevan Updates Situation

NC1803191194 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The significant decrease in the number of combat operations at the NKR's front lines during the past few days should not be taken to mean that tension has subsided. Regrettably, instability continues to exist. The reason for this state of affairs is the systematic firing on the Armenian defense positions by Azerbaijan's military forces and the concentration of Azerbaijani reinforcements and military vehicles in areas close to the front. This is not the first time that Azerbaijan's military command has used the relatively peaceful situation to organize wide-scale attacks. Although the enemy has agreed to hold talks to resolve the dispute, it has not abandoned its military operations.

It is a fact that the talks held between the chairmen of the parliaments of the two sides was a hope-inspiring development. However, it is difficult to predict the outcome of their talks. The latest reports we have received from the NKR Defense Headquarters have confirmed our viewpoint.

NKR advance positions in Agdamskiy, Martuninskiy, and Fizulinskiy Rayons were fired on with various types of arms from Azerbaijan's military bases in Fizulinskiy and Agdzhabedinskiy Rayons the night before last. The Armenian defensive positions in Yusifdzhanly, Novruzlu, and Egerly in Agdamskiy Rayon were fired on with various types of arms from the military bases in Agdzhabedinskiy and Agdamskiy Rayons. No one was wounded in the incidents.

The Azerbaijan Military Command Headquarters has used its air force units once again. Two enemy aircraft tried to bomb Stepanakert at about 1020 yesterday. The NKR air defense forces took retaliatory measures. The first reports we received said that one of the aircraft was hit and downed near Dashbulakh in Askeranskiy Rayon. We recall that one of Azerbaijan's aircraft was destroyed in NKR's airspace nearly a month ago. Obviously, the losses suffered by Azerbaijan's air force units have increased.

The situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan continues to be tense. However, serious clashes and exchanges of fire have not occurred. The situation can be described as relatively peaceful.

Yerevan Involvement Denied

NC1803201494 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1800 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Zhirair Liparityan, Armenian first deputy foreign minister, made a statement to reporters today in connection with the [Iranian] plane crash. Mr. Liparityan said:

[Begin Liparityan recording] You might have already heard that last night an Iranian C-130 aircraft flying from Moscow to Tehran deviated by some 100 km from its established path for unknown reasons after crossing Georgian airspace. It did not enter the Armenian zone. It appears that it entered Azerbaijani airspace and then was involved in an accident 14 km from Stepanakert. It is not clear what happened. The only thing we know is that at around 2200 Tbilisi informed our air traffic controllers that the plane would enter Armenian airspace at 2208. But, in fact it did not. A search started after that. The accident involving the Iranian aircraft took place at around 2230. Even this is not clear. In addition to the crew, civilians were also on board. The exact number is not clear. There should have been 13 crewmen. There were also others. [words indistinct] Probably some 30, 31 people.

We had no direct involvement with this incident because the plane was not in contact with us. But we are already providing every assistance to the Iranian Embassy and Government to facilitate the solution of the problems arising from this incident. I can only add that there is clear information that plane was experiencing technical difficulties; defects, technical defects.

This is all we know. And no one can say anything more definite than this.

Sorry, I will not reply to your questions today. Everything we know for certain I conveyed to you. Thank you. [end recording]

Karabakh Hints Azeris Responsible

LD1903140494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1202 GMT 19 Mar 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Mar—Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran have started work at the site of the crash of the Iranian C-130 Hercules military transport plane.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic told an ITAR-TASS correspondent by telephone today that the republic's authorities had expressed condolences to the families of those who died and to the Iranian people. A state commission to investigate the cause of the air crash has been set up.

According to reports from other Karabakh sources, local experts do not rule out the possibility that the Iranian plane could have been shot down by the Azerbaijani side. In their opinion, information about the radio intercept, which the Karabakh side bears witness to, as does the fact that at the site where the military plane came down near the village of Noragyukh in Askerasnkiy [Askeran] Rayon, there are fragments of five surface-to-air class missiles launched over the past 18 months from anti-aircraft missile systems in the Azerbaijani towns of Mingechaur and Ter'er.

However, Stepanakert is refraining from making any official statements until the commission has given its findings. One possible motive is said to be that the cause of the crash of the military helicopter carrying several Azerbaijani leaders in November 1991 in Nagorno-Karabakh has still not been established. The Azerbaijani side placed the blame on Stepanakert then without any proof, but the matter has still not been cleared up.

Karabakh Soviet Consoles Families

NC1903162594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1114 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Stepanakert, March 19 (SNARK)—The Presidium of Karabakh Supreme Soviet expressed condolence to relatives of the people who died as result of air crash of Iranian plane near Stepanakert. "The disaster overtook Iranian brothers and sisters has become a great tragedy for Karabakh people, who have seen a lot grief and suffering," it is said in mourning message.

The Presidium of Karabakh Parliament stated about the readiness of Karabakh authorities to provide all necessary conditions for detail investigation of the air crash.

Iranian Experts: Rocket 'Likely' Cause

LD2003113394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The investigation by a group of Iranian experts into the cause of the crash in Khankendi [Stepanakert] of a C-130 aircraft belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran is continuing at the crash site. Although the primary cause of the plane crash is not definitely clear yet and the state authorities are waiting for the investigation results from the dispatched group, agency reports and statements by local authorities indicate that it is likely that the plane crashed after being hit by a rocket.

According to a Central News Unit report, official Azeri authorities say that the Iranian C-130 was downed by Armenian anti-aircraft artillery positioned in the Khankendi area, which is a disputed area in Karabakh. Nevertheless, those reports have been rejected by Armenian authorities.

Our correspondent has been informed by an aviation expert that the Iranian captain had established contact with the Yerevan airport, but the contact was unsuccessful. The captain had also made contact with a Russian aircraft flying in the vicinity in order to coordinate with the airport with his assistance. The aviation experts believe it is unlikely that the C-130 plane crashed as a result of a technical fault.

Victims' Bodies To Be Flown Home

LD2103092194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0900 GMT 21 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 21 TASS—34 bodies of people killed in the crash of the Iranian C-130 plane in Nagorno-Karabakh, including nine children, will be sent home on Monday in presence of Iranian diplomats, relatives and experts who arrived in Yerevan.

The Iranian experts intend to fly to Stepanakert to participate in the investigation of the aircrash on the spot.

It became known from reliable sources that the recording of the talk between traffic controllers of the Yerevan airport and the crew of the Iranian plane was sealed and would be studied by experts.

The C-130 plane had to fly through the Armenian airspace bound for Tehran, but deviated 100 kilometres from the route for unknown reasons.

It thus got into the airspace of Azerbaijan and crashed three kilometres off Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Russian Experts on Planes's Mission

LD2103095494 Mosow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 21 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS corespondent Anatoliy Yurin]

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—Russian military experts do not rule out a possibility that the Iranian C-130 plane which crashed near Stepanakert on Friday was on a reconnaisance mission in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Why did Iranian pilots who knew that medium altitudes over a combat zone (of Nagorno-Karabakh) are mortally dangerous still flew towards Stepanakert and further headed towards the strategically important Lachin corridor (connecting the enclave with Armenia)", the experts told TASS on Monday.

They added that neither the special commission investigating the crash, nor the simultaneous statements of Armenians and Azeris denying their involvement in the crash will give an answer to the main question—why the C-130 appeared in the airspace of Nagorno-Karabakh and why did the crew choose the course right over the combat area?.

The experts stressed that the crew of the plane had an unusually big number of members and that the craft did not need any emergency landing even if the cockpit was depressurised.

The plane could have landed in Gyandzha or Shamkhor in Azerbaijan where runways of former Soviet military airfields are big enough for all types of heavy planes.

The experts do not rule out that one of the warring sides shot down the plane mistaking it for an enemy one. It is quite possible the transport craft was attacked from a mobile anti-aircraft missile which are in big numbers in the combat zone, they added.

Baltic Officials Discuss Joint Peacekeeping Force

WS2103104794 Tallinn ETA in English 0841 GMT 21 Mar 94

[From 21 March RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, POSTIMEES, p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 54/94]

[Text] Monday, March 21—Commanders of the Baltic defence forces met in Jurmala on Saturday [19 March] in order to discuss the forming and the structure of the Baltic joint peacekeeping battalion.

Commanders in Chief General Aleksander Einseln, Colonel Dainis Turlais and General Jonas Andrikevicius agreed on forming a joint work group. The group headed

by the Lithuanian Defence Forces Chief of Staff will concentrate on the issues connected with the forming of the battalion.

The commanders signed a joint appeal to the respective defence ministers, asking that they contributed to an agreement between the governments on the forming of the peacekeeping battalion. General Einseln stressed that the unit will need a legal basis before receiving weapons, equipment and training. The battalion, to be named Baltbat, should consist of HQ [headquarters, HQ company, support company and three infantry companies, altogether some 700 men, head of the Estonian Defence Forces GHQ [general headquarters] chancellery Colonel Mart Tiru said.

The commanders also discussed the "Partnership for Peace" programme and stressed the need for a joint airspace control system.

Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis held a dinner for the defence forces commanders on Saturday.

Shumeyko: Assembly Should Help Form CIS Economic Union

LD1803162394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] The speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Parliament Vladimir Shumeyko believes that the CIS inter-parliamentary assembly should help the process of forming the legal infrastructure of the treaty on creating a CIS Economic Union.

Addressing the Assembly session in St. Petersburg Friday, Shumeyko, also chairman of the Assembly's Council, said that pragmatic politicians and the peoples of the CIS had come to understand that only through joint actions and the consideration of mutual interests of the CIS partners would they be able to advance the reforms and build a democratic society.

He believes that obstacles should be removed on the way to the economic, currency and financial cooperation and favorable legal and economic conditions created for direct contacts between enterprises and commercial structures.

Shumeyko said that the CIS states should coordinate policies in the sphere of social and labor relations, the rights and guarantees for all working people and citizens, first and foremost in the sphere of employment, migration, social security.

Shumeyko believes it is necessary that the Assembly draft a document, a sort of a "social act" or "social charter of the CIS states" which would fix priorities of social policies and mechanism for their implementation.

Shumeyko drew everybody's attention to the need to solve, jointly with the executive branch of power and social and political forces, the problems associated with the position of ethnic groups and national minorities, as well as to continue peace-keeping efforts to settle the armed conflicts and reduce the acuteness of the related refugee problem.

He spoke in favor of helping the peace-keeping group on Karabakh created by the Assembly.

Taking part in the Assembly's session are parliamentary delegations of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan. Uzbekistan did not send its delegates. Also absent are representatives of Moldova and Ukraine, who attended the previous session as observers. Also attending are delegates of the Coordination Staff for Military Cooperation among CIS members and the General Confederation of Trade Unions.

Communique Issued

LD1903093794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1707 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] St.Petersburg, 18 Mar— The resolution on recommended legislative acts regulating economic relations within the framework of the CIS Economic Union will serve to implement the Treaty on setting up the CIS Economic Union. This is stressed in a communique on the plenary setting of the Interparliamentary Assembly which ended today.

The participants in the sitting agreed with the proposal to draw up a model criminal code and a model code of criminal procedure and to speed up the preparation of legislative acts to fight crime in the CIS. Stressing the urgency of maintaining and recreating on new foundations a single educational and culture space within the framework of the CIS, the Assembly recommended that national parliaments adopt measures for the development of cooperation. A recommendation was approved to raise the social status of pupils in the system of education and science, and to join the UNESCO convention "Agreement on the importation of materials of an educational, scientific and cultural nature". It was found expedient to draw up a recommended act for keeping internal waters in CIS ecologically safe. Measures were defined to prepare for the celebration of victory in the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War.

Baltic Countries Set Up Peacekeeping Battalion

LD2003044894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Report by correspondent Yakolev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting of defense force commanders of the Baltic countries has concluded with the signing of an agreement on the structure of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion. Its formation is planned to be finished by the end of next year. They took as an example a relevant sub-unit of the Scandinavian countries. It is likely that the main base of the battalion will be the Lithuanian military unit in Alytus. Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian lawyers will have to prepare and agree upon legislative acts that will ensure the normal function of the battalion.

The Baltic servicemen also agreed that it is necessary to have joint control over air space. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia consider participation in the Partnership for Peace program as a step toward integration with Western Europe and as a bridge that will help them to be closer to NATO. One cannot ignore, however, the fact that it is possible that Russia will join the program to blow up this bridge. This opinion was also expressed by the servicemen at a news conference. It is difficult as yet to calculate how much it will cost taxpayers to participate in the partnership. However, the Baltic politicians and servicemen underline that when one talks about security there is no room for bargaining.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Mar

LD1903081994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0637 GMT 19 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline; quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS—ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's first meeting with the members of the Federation Council on March 17.

The meeting dealt with a specific subject discussed in detail by the MPs on the previous day—defaults of payments—and not the entire spectrum of socio-economic problems.

It is noteworthy that, despite the premier's rigid stand (he firmly declared against emergency measures in the economy, against mutual offsets of debts and the emission of money), the discussion was rather peaceful.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on Friday's heavy snowfall and coup rumours: "It snowed heavily in Moscow on Friday and, as is usually the case, the mayor's office as represented by the road-cleaning service was not prepared for such a whim of winter. "There developed huge traffic jams in the streets, and the cars of many statesmen got stuck. According to reliable information, some of them, to while away the time, discussed rumours about a coup that was allegedly to be carried out on Thursday. "Analysing numerous pronouncements by opposition members at a rally and in the state duma, one can only guess who it was who intended to overthrow the lawfully elected president or, vice-versa, to enhance his authority. "Even if a coup began, it would have hardly succeeded because tanks (as the main attribute of Moscow unrest) would not have been able to manoeuvre in the snow-drifted and traffic-blocked streets of the capital".

KOSMOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov who, touching upon possible actions of the opposition on May 1, stated: "We prepare for a possible unrest most seriously. Militia have been provided with all the necessary technical equipment. Law enforcement agencies have been instructed to put a stop to actions that would threaten the safety or disturb the peace of Muscovites". NOVAYA GAZETA on a timetable for full withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia: "The diplomats of Russia and Latvia have agreed upon a timetable for full withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Latvia. Russia will lease the Skrunda radar for four years and then it will dismantle it in 18 months' time. The question of radar lease payments remains undecided. An amount of two million U.S. dollars does not suit the Latvian side. "Russian politicians do not want to draw lessons from their lamentable experience. We assumed obligations for a withdrawal of Russian troops from Eastern European countries and we ourselves determined time-limits and then tried to settle the financial problems. "Having left behind residential buildings, a developed infrastructure, office space, etc. In the countries where its troops stayed, Russia in exchange received bills for ruined ecology, moral damage, etc".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Belarus. Two missile divisions stationed at Mozyr and Lida are to be withdrawn and are to be fully disbanded by mid-1996. All military and residential townships of missilemen are to be turned over to the Belarusian side. Speaking about the future of missilemen themselves, Lieutenant-General Viktor Yesin, chief of the operations division of the main headquarters of strategic missile forces, pointed out that they will serve in undermanned Russian units. Commissioned and non-commissioned officers who remain in Belarus will enjoy all the rights of Belarusian citizens.

SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIA runs an address to the citizens of Russia by the leaders of the left-centre opposition. The address reads, in particular, as follows: "We are backed by the creative experience and heroism of the great citizens of Russian and the patriots of the motherland.

"We are backed by the millennia-long experience of Russian statehood. We shall strive for national concord and consolidation of society and for the enlistment of the efforts of all citizens-patriots for the restoration of the wrecked Russia which is at a loss."

ST. PETERSBURG GAZETTE recalls that cityfolk are to go the polls on Sunday to elect members of the ST. PETERSBURG municipal assembly. Fifty seats are being contested by more than 740 candidates.

The municipal court issued a ruling recognising as invalid the point in the statute of elections which previously limited the participation of servicemen and students without a residential registration in the polling. This time they are also included in the voters' lists.

Defense Ministry Defends Joint Exercise With U.S.

PM1803161394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 1

[Statement from Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate under "From Informed Sources" rubric: "Let Us Not Dramatize"]

[Text] On 16 March 1994, PRAVDA published an article by Major General Viktor Chudov, retired, entitled "Our Strategists Are Too Unsophisticated." In the article he discussed the forthcoming Russo-U.S. joint exercises. The article contained a series of gross distortions. The author of the article, who does not have true information on the planned exercises, casts doubt on the military-political expediency of them and, at the same time, of the whole range of Russo-U.S. relations in the military sphere.

The publication distorts the scale and nature of the planned exercises. In particular, the author asserts that the U.S. 3d Infantry Division and the Russian Armed Forces 27th Motorized Rifle Division are being drafted into this event in their full complement. In fact the plan is not to stage troop exercises involving all the personnel of the two divisions together with their combat hardware and weapons but merely a command and staff exercise with a very limited number of personnel (up to 250 men per side) and vehicles.

Parts of the forthcoming exercise will indeed be rehearsed at the Totskiy test range. This is due to the fact that the 27th Motorized Rifle Division is stationed in the area of the test range and a center for training peacekeeping forces, the only one of its kind in the Russian Armed forces at present, has been created here.

As for the cost of holding the exercise, the United States is prepared to bear that in full (up to $2 million). For the Russian side this is a planned exercise and does not entail any additional costs.

The main aim of this joint measure is to rehearse questions of cooperation in the performance of peacekeeping operations. The forthcoming command and staff exercise should make a real contribution to the cause of international cooperation in the settlement of conflicts in trouble spots and to the preservation of world peace.

Kokoshin on Perry Talks, Partnership for Peace

LD1803171694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 18 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoi and others]

[Text] For the time being it is too early to discuss who will go to Brussels and when to sign the NATO program Partnership for Peace on behalf of Russia, First Deputy Defense Minister of the Russian Federation Andrey Kokoshin told reporters on Friday.

He said that Mr. Perry's visit to Russia focused on bilateral relations in the military/political sphere. In particular, the two sides discussed the implementation of the air-defense treaty, ban on nuclear testing and nonproliferation of nuclear arms.

"Russia and the U.S. are particularly responsible for non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, because they are two major nuclear powers. We should not focus all of our attention on the NATO program Partnership for Peace. It is just "an element" of relations between Russia and the West. Partnership For Peace should be understood in a broad sense," Kokoshin said.

In his opinion, "one should approach Russia's entry in this program very seriously." "The interests of Russia and its allies under the CIS treaty on collective security should be fully taken into account," Kokoshin said.

Concluding Talks Reported

PM1803174794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 2

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report: "There Are Problems, But They Can Be Resolved"]

[Text] The practical aspects of cooperation between Russia and the United States in questions concerning the conversion of the defense industry and nuclear disarmament were the main theme of the talks between Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry 18 March in Moscow. In particular, projects to supply American technologies for the construction of residential accommodation in Russia, including accommodation for servicemen, were discussed. After all, the head of the Russian Government, along with American Vice President Albert Gore, is co-chairman of the commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation between our countries, and also for implementing the conversion of military production.

A meeting involving Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister, Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry took place 18 March.

At the meeting, the discussion of the issues examined at the meeting on the previous day between Russian Federation Army General Pavel Grachev and William Perry was continued. In particular, talk centered on the reinforcement of the ABM Treaty, the eradication of chemical weapons, the halting of nuclear explosions by all countries possessing nuclear weapons, and the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation.

On the previous day there had been meetings with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and later, in

the State Duma, with representatives of the parliamentary committees for defense and security and for international affairs. Attention focused on questions linked with Russia's expected accession to the NATO "Partnership for Peace" program.

In the afternoon the U.S. defense secretary left Russia.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Middle East

LD1903135694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS - The Russian Foreign Ministry released the following statement on Saturday.

"On March 18 the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution denouncing the massacre in Hebron and providing for a set of measures to ensure the safety of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories.

"Russia, from the very beginning of the discussion of the resolution in the Security Council, had been calling for its soonest possible adoption, considering it as a crucial step for normalising the situation in the Middle East and resuming Arab-Israeli talks.

"The initiating steps taken by the Russian cosponsor—personal address by President Boris Yeltsin to the leaders of Israel and the PLO, a trip by the foreign minister to Israel and Tunisia, a series of contacts by Russian special representatives in the region and energetic efforts in the Security Council—not only facilitated the adoption of an effective resolution, but also laid the foundation for further progress in the Middle East peace process.

"Russia, together and parallelly with the American cosponsor, intends to continue the active political line in the Middle East, including in [illegible]dance with the provisions of the adopted resolu[illegible]nd is ready to do its best to implement the U.N. Security Council resolution on Hebron, as well as promote the soonest possible agreement between Israel and Palestinians and its fulfillment. This would provide opportunities in other directions of the Arab-Israeli dialogue and near the time of establishing a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East."

Churkin: Bosnian Agreements Only 'First Steps' to Peace

LD1903161794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0010 GMT 19 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[Text] Washington, 19 Mar—Vitaliy Churkin, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and the Russian president's special envoy, has described the agreements concluded here on the formation of a Muslim-Croat Bosnian federation as important, but only the very first steps in a peaceful settlement of the Bosnian conflict. He attended Friday's White House ceremony at which the documents were signed. Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, and Kresimir Zubak, a representative of the Bosnian Croats, appended their signatures to the documents.

On the same day Churkin arranged a news conference, at which he declared that the agreement on a new Muslim-Croat state formation, and especially the agreement on arranging confederative ties between it and Croatia were of an interim nature. It was a vital condition for a true settlement in Bosnia that it preserved its territorial integrity and that the Bosnian Serbs, therefore, took part in the peace process, the high-ranking Russian diplomat explained.

Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent about whether the agreement on confederative relations between the new federation and Croatia might be an obstacle to the inclusion of the Serbs within the federation, Churkin said: I don't think so, since the agreement on a confederation with Croatia is of an interim nature. Equally interim is the agreement on the formation of the actual federation. In other words, both documents may be changed if the Bosnian Serbs decide to become involved in implementing them. I am sure that the Serbs will demand some changes that will be in keeping with their views on the future Bosnia. The Russian deputy foreign minister pointed out that the territorial contradictions constituted one of the main issues dividing the opposing sides today.

Churkin stressed the major role that is currently being played in the process of settling the Bosnian conflict by American and Russian diplomacy. He noted that the two countries' interests in this respect were not opposed in principle. He said that evidence of this was provided by the praise for Russia's efforts that was expressed at the signing ceremony by U.S. President Bill Clinton. Equally high praise for Moscow's policy was forthcoming at the meeting that took place on the same day with Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

During the visit by the Russian president's special envoy to the American capital, he also had a conversation with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. He held consultations with Charles Redman, the American special envoy on Yugoslavia, and met David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the co-chairmen of the peace process in the former Yugoslavia.

Churkin told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that Russian diplomacy would continue to play an active part in settling the Bosnian conflict. He announced that he was flying on 19 March to Zagreb to have further talks and to organize a meeting between the sides, which are planned for the Russian Embassy on 25 March.

Churkin on Clinton, Gore Talks

LD2003225294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1732 GMT 20 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Zagreb, 20 Mar—"The U.S. leadership has confirmed at the highest level its preparedness to cooperate with Russia in the settlement of the crisis in former Yugoslavia," Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy of the Russian president, said upon arrival in the Croatian capital from Washington on Sunday.

"I had talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Vice President Albert Gore. During the talks with Christopher we discussed the main directions of our joint work and agreed that the United States and Russia will work with all sides involved in the conflict," Churkin said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

"In Washington, we discussed the most likely date for a meeting between all Bosnian sides. I believe that this meeting could be held as early as next week," Churkin said.

"Everyone supports our initiative in holding this meeting and hopes that the signing of the cease-fire agreement will be followed by further productive steps. But now what is mainly being said is that it is necessary to nudge the sides to the conclusion of this agreement to conclude the months of talks. Stressing as I do the strengthening of our cooperation with the United States, I also invited the U.S. ambassador in Croatia to take part in the Zagreb meeting," Churkin said.

Vladimir Ivanovskiy, head of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry department for the countries of former Yugoslavia, who is in Zagreb, commenting on Russia's approach to the Croatian-Serbian settlement process, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today that the Croat leadership's talks with the local Serbs should, judging by everything, take place in three stages.

The first, if circumstances are favorable, could be completed by 22 March with the signing of a cease-fire agreement and end to hostilities. The draft agreement envisages demarcation of lines of the Croatian and Serbian forces, withdrawal of heavy weapons from a 20-km security zone, and a number of other measures.

After this talks could begin on restoration of economic and transport links with the territories under Serbian control.

Political questions including the status of the Serb Krajinas should, as the most difficult aspect, be left to the third stage of a settlement, the Russian diplomat said.

Krajina Draft Agreement Ready

LD2103162694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1402 GMT 21 Mar 94

[By Andrey Naryshkin, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Zagreb, 21 Mar—Participants in the talks between government delegations of Croatia and the Serb Republic of Krajina due to open at the Russian Embassy in Zagreb on Tuesday will strive toward an agreement on stopping hostilities immediately.

The talks, which are to be resumed, as is known, at the initiative of the Russian side, will be based on a draft agreement on a cease-fire drawn up by specialists from UN peace-making forces. The Croat delegation is expected to be led by Hrvoje Sarinic, head of the republic's security service, and the Serb delegation by Rear Admiral Dusan Rakic, defense minister of the Serb Republic of Krajina which Croatia does not recognize. Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy of the Russian president, the Russian and U.S. ambassadors in Croatia as well as officials from UN peace-making forces and the international conference on former Yugoslavia are to attend the talks as mediators.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from trustworthy sources in Zagreb that the basic content of the draft agreement boils down to the following:

- The sides agree to cease armed operations forthwith and also to cease fire on all lines of contact as of a date to be agreed;
- The tactical deployment of the armed forces which are situated along the line of contact and within a radius of 10 km in all directions relative to the line of contact will be frozen on the day the agreement is signed and movement of military units and sub-units will be banned;
- All targetable weapons will be deployed outside the region of the line of contact: mortars and antiaircraft guns at least 10 km and artillery and tanks at least 20 km;
- All sub-units to be withdrawn from the line of contact by at least 1,000 meters;
- Observance of the cease-fire is to be monitored by the UNPROFOR and the EC observer mission;
- Joint commissions are being set up at all levels and their main task is to mark the terrain where the sides' disengagement lines are situated and to investigate any cease-fire violations;
- A certain number of checkpoints will be opened along the entire line of contact. Conditions for the joint commissions to meet at the checkpoints will be created.

A separate point treats the need for the sides to meet to discuss the conditions for the reduction of the armed forces within the 10 km security zone.

On the eve of the talks Vitaliy Churkin is holding intensive consultations in Zagreb with the highest

UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] officials and with representatives of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia.

Japanese Foreign Minister Hata Arrives in Moscow

LD2003212894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Video report by correspondent F. Tavrovskiy; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Tsutomu Hata, the Japanese foreign minister and deputy prime minister, has arrived in Moscow on a three-day visit. During meetings with the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry and other leaders, Hata is going to discuss a wide range of issues. Firstly, long-standing disputes over the Kuril Islands, which cause great anxiety on the part of the Japanese side in light of the recent statement by Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, that there is no territorial problem between our two countries. Hata also wants to discuss Russia' policy in the former Yugoslavia in greater detail, economic cooperation issues, and the possibility of Russia joining G7—the minister is very reserved regarding the latter.

Before departure, Hata admitted frankly that he was going to ask Russia's assistance in settling the situation on the Korean Peninsula. To all appearances, Marshall Kim Il-song continues to develop nuclear weapons, and the pressure exerted by South Korea and the United States is evidently insufficient. All these issues will be discussed tomorrow when the six-hour time lag between Moscow and Tokyo will not be affecting the minister so strongly. Today, Hata laid a wreath at the Grave of the Unknown soldier and visited the Moscow State University and the Morozov hospital. [video shows a press conference, aerial pictures of islands, facilities, Hata laying a wreath]

Hata Criticizes DPRK

OW2003131094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 20 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata criticized North Korea on Sunday over its suspected nuclear arms development plan, saying Pyongyang is taking a stubborn attitude.

Hata, speaking to reporters in Moscow, said North Korea's tough attitude led to the breakdown of the eighth round of working-level inter-Korean talks Saturday.

"It is regrettable that the (dialogue) broke down because of North Korea's stubborn attitude," he said.

The foreign minister, who is on a four-day visit to Russia starting Saturday, urged North Korea to respond to serious concern among the international community about its nuclear development program. He also asked Pyongyang to hold sincere talks with South Korea.

On Saturday, delegates of North and South Korea met in the truce village of Panmunjom for 55 minutes to discuss procedures for an inter-Korean exchange of special envoys between Seoul and Pyongyang. But the session produced little progress, failing even to set a date for the next round. The talks collapsed with North Korean negotiators walking away from the dialogue table, south officials said.

Meets with Chernomyrdin

LD2103104594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] This morning the Russian premier met with Tsutomu Hata, the Japanese minister of foreign affairs. Participants in the meeting said that possible projects for economic cooperation were the main topic discussed at the talks. In addition, political aspects of Russian-Japanese relations were discussed. This is what Viktor Chernomyrdin said in response to a question about the Northern Territories and what Tsutomu Hata replied to a question about the possibility of Russia joining the G-7.

[Begin recording] [Chernomyrdin] We did not discuss this matter in detail but we did touch on it in principle: that we need to conclude a peace treaty between Russia and Japan and that, naturally, the issue relating to the territories is one that we will study. So, we will be acting without haste on this. This issue cannot be settled hurriedly. There is an accord reached following the president's visit. I believe we will continue to act in future within the framework of this understanding.

[Hata in Japanese, with superimposed Russian translation] Regarding the issue of Russia joining the G-7, this issue should be examined within the framework of the G-7 countries. Since we know that Russia plays a very important role in the political life of the international community, including in the issue of the former Yugoslavia, I think we should therefore continue in future to have close contacts with Russia. But if one is to talk categorically about this issue, then ultimately it is Italy's turn this year to be the country which chairs the G-7. So, it is Italy that can play the chief role in deciding this matter. But, nevertheless, bearing in mind the major role which Russia plays in the international community, I think we should have close contacts in future with Russia on this matter. [end recording]

Kozyrev Hails 'Constructive' Talks

LD2103121594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 21 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kopnov and Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—The foreign ministers of Russia and Japan have agreed to raise the level of cooperation between the two countries in the field of economic interaction, Andrey Kozyrev said after the end

of official negotiations with his Japanese counterpart Tsutomu Hata, who is also Japan's vice-premier.

Andrey Kozyrev said he and his Japanese opposite number had had "a detailed, circumstantial and constructive conversation covering a wide range of bilateral problems and some international issues".

On the initiative of the Japanese side, the question about the peace treaty between the two countries, including the territorial issue, was touched upon. "We are not eschewing this problem," the Russian minister said. According to him, these questions will be discussed in detail during bilateral negotiations on the basis of the Tokyo declaration signed during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan last October.

The Japanese minister was handed over a message from Boris Yeltsin to Japan's Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, in which the Russian president expresses the desire to see the head of the Japanese government arrive for a visit to Moscow as soon as possible.

Tsutumu Hata said the Russian president's message was "very amiable". He said the prompt signing of a peace treaty and the solution to the territorial dispute would be in the interests of better bilateral relations. He noted that popular support was needed for the solution in both countries.

Tsutomu Hata confirmed Tokyo's readiness to assist Russian reforms in all ways. He said Japan intended to cooperate with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in establishing a 50 million dollar fund to support Russia's small- and medium- sized businesses.

Asked about Japan's stance on turning the Group of Seven into a group of eight by adopting Russia as a full-fledged member, Andrey Kozyrev said Japan's reaction was "quite encouraging".

Kozyrev Urges DPRK Compliance

OW2103123394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1216 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Moscow, March 21 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev urged North Korea on Monday [21 March] to abide by controls on nuclear facilities as imposed under the international nuclear safeguard agreement, Japanese officials said.

During a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, Kozyrev argued that all controls should be abided by through inspections by experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the officials said. [passage omitted]

Non-Proliferation Discussed

LD2103131894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1232 GMT 21 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kopnov, Anatoliy Krasnov, and Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow, 21 March—Strengthening and maintaining the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, including IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspections, is a fundamental issue for Russia, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated today after talks with Tsutomu Hata, Japanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Answering questions from journalists about whether there was discussion at their meeting of the problems regarding steps Moscow might take in regard to Pyongyang, which is suspected of developing nuclear weapons, the Russian minister said: "We shall firmly insist upon fulfilment of all necessary obligations and procedures." The forms in which this issue might be settled, he pointed out, are now being discussed at bilateral negotiations and the relevant consultations are under way, including through IAEA channels. "I think we shall be acting with Japan very closely, as well as with other partners," Andrey Kozyrev stressed.

Shared Concern Over DPRK

LD2103181194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 21 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—Russia and Japan are of the same opinion about the current "alarming situation" around the North Korean nuclear problem which may become still more serious, Aleksandr Panov, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview after the talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Tsutomu Hata, deputy premier and foreign minister of Japan, in Moscow today.

According to Aleksandr Panov, Moscow and Tokyo stand for strengthening of the regime of nuclear non-proliferation and for the Korean Peninsular becoming a nuclear-free zone. Both sides, he noted, consider it necessary to maintain a constant mutual contact, continue negotiations on the nuclear problem of North Korea, and probably look for some other approaches as the present ones proved to be insufficiently effective.

Asked about what joint contribution Moscow and Tokyo could make to the ensuring of security in the Far East and in the Asian-Pacific region as a whole, the Russian senior diplomat said both sides had earlier expressed the coincidence of views on this problem.

Russia and Japan consider it important, while maintaining the existing treaties and agreements, to move towards cooperation on a subregional level. The Russian

Foreign Ministry believes that such a subregional mechanism could be created in particular in the basin of the Sea of Japan.

Agreement on Military Exchanges

LD2103163594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1557 GMT 21 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kopnov and Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—Russia and Japan agreed in principle on Monday to hold exchanges in the field of defence and security, Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata told a press conference.

He explained that in order to enhance trust between the two sides it had been agreed to develop contacts between people responsible for drafting the policy in the spheres, particularly between representatives of defence ministries.

Hata on Results of Visit

LD2103185694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Russia and Japan agree that their territorial dispute should be solved "step by step taking the Tokyo declaration as a basis," Japanese Vice Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata commented on the results of his visit to Moscow.

As the main result of his visit, Hata pointed out the two sides' proven commitment to preserve Russo-Japanese relations on the level achieved after Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo last October and strictly observe the provisions of the Tokyo declaration signed during the visit.

Hata pointed out that his present visit to Russia had produced a number of openings which could lead to a conducive environment for the resolution of the territorial issue. In particular, the contacts between Japan and the four disputed islands will be further enhanced.

The Japanese minister said he was satisfied with Russia's commitment to the course of reforms. "The main thing now is to train personnel for the future Russian economy. This is why we agreed on Japan constructing a business college at Moscow University and setting up a Japanese management center there," Hata was quoted as saying. He also said the Japanese government planned to set aside $50 Mn to stimulate Russia's privatized businesses. Hata pointed out that Russia and Japan had exchanged opinions on a wide range of global-scale issues. "Russia has proved its weight in international affairs, and its involvement in the resolution of international issues is very important," Hata said.

According to the Japanese minister, the two sides reached a principal agreement to hold permanent consultations on defense and security issues.

Commenting on North Korea's refusal to admit IAEA experts and its threat to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Japanese minister pointed out that he had touched on the issue during his talk with his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev, and that he could confidently establish that the two countries were unanimous on the issue. Hata added that both Russia and Japan were deeply concerned over the North Korean issue, and "we demand this country admit IAEA experts and resume exchange of envoys with South Korea."

Envoy to UN on Moves to Lift Iraq Oil Embargo

LD1803210394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1907 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] United Nations March 18 TASS—Russia raised the question of lifting oil embargo against Iraq at today's closed-door consultative meeting of the United Nations Security Council, which discussed sanctions against Baghdad.

"Russia said that certain positive changes have recently occurred in Baghdad actions which testify to its intention to fulfill disarmament aspects of Resolution 687 and long-term control measures of Resolution 715," Russian permanent representative to the United Nations Yuliy Vorontsov told ITAR-TASS today.

In the words of Vorontsov, "the Russian delegation thinks that positive changes in the Iraqi stand should be encouraged". Bearing this in mind, Russia suggested to include in a statement of the Security Council president a provision on positive changes in Iraqi actions.

The Russian delegation also voiced the need for the "soonest agreement on the date to begin the fulfilment of long-term monitoring plans and duration of the 'control period' for estimation of its efficiency.

"If upon the completion of this period, say six months, Iraqi honest comprehensive fulfilment of obligations is confirmed, Russia will be ready to discuss the lift of oil embargo in accordance with paragraph 22 of Resolution 687".

The Russian delegation thinks Iraq should immediately recognize sovereignty and borders of Kuwait.

Baker Arrives in Tbilisi, Meets Shevardnadze

LD1803203694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Former U.S. state secretary James Baker arrived in Tbilisi on Friday. "I am pleased to enjoy the hospitality of my friend Eduard Shevardnadze once again," he said in the Tbilisi airport. Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and former U.S. state secretary Baker had a conversation on Friday afternoon.

After the conversation former U.S. state secretary Baker told journalists that he had come to Tbilisi to learn more about Georgia's predicament, to discuss economic aid to

Georgia, issues concerning the country's interests along with those of the former Soviet republics and of Europe.

Georgian leader Shevardnadze and former U.S. state secretary Baker were present at the opening of the First Congress of Georgian Citizens which took place on the same day.

Grachev Says Lithuania Arrest Was Planned

LD1903223394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 19 Mar 94

[From the4 "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is back in Moscow after his visit to Kaliningrad. But as has become known, his visit should have continued today as well. Our correspondent reports on details of this unexpected change in the program.

[Correspondent Sablin] Baltiysk, the town of naval seamen, has already gotten used to visits by prominent guests. But nevertheless, one could describe the latest visit there by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev as historic; in a few days the fate of the oldest navy of Russia will be decided at a collegium of the Military Department.

It seems that the minister already has his own opinion: the Baltic Navy, even after reduction by 40 percent, should remain the main core of the defense area which is being set up in the Western part of the country. The second important point of the program of Pavel Grachev's visit to Kaliningrad Oblast was the settlement of social problems of servicemen who were withdrawn from the Baltic countries. But the minister did not manage to solve the complex of problems on construction of accommodation because of extraordinary, almost detective-story circumstances. Literally the day before, the special services of Lithuania arrested Vladas Laurinavicius, the head of the "Selma" firm in Kaunas. This is the firm which is building blocks of apartments for Russian servicemen.

[Begin Grachev recording] This action was planned. Our conversation with him and all that happened after this conversation was monitored. I am the author of this project and the matter is that in essence "Selma" worked with its own money, so to say, on credit, and they were patiently waiting for us to pay them. Moreover, Vladas was informed that I would bring instructions from the prime minister concerning conditions of payment. I brought them a barter deal, as it were. We should have paid him in oil as we agreed. You know, these instruction are here, in my case, but I cannot give them to him. [end recording]

[Announcer] This is some kind of a detective story which has made the problem of accommodation for the servicemen even more difficult.

Navy Denies Decision Made To Dump Waste in Sea of Japan

LD2003045494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2200 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] The dumping of liquid nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan by vessels of the Pacific Fleet may be carried out only if permitted by the Russian Government. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this at the press center of the Russian Navy when he asked the center to comment on a report published in Japan's MAINICHI. Citing the head of the chemical service of the Pacific Fleet, Valeriy Danilyan, the newspaper wrote that Russia may resume the discharge of the waste in the Sea of Japan in May this year if foreign countries, including Japan, fail to provide financial aid for building special units. The press center of the Russian Navy said that this is just a personal opinion of one of the commanders of the Pacific Fleet. The Russian Government has made no decision concerning the dumping of nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan.

Zhirinovsky Postpones Visit to Czech Republic

LD1903070894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0601 GMT 19 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Prague, March 19 (TASS)—Vladimir Zhirinovsky has postponed his visit to the czech capital for an indefinite time, the CTK NEWS AGENCY reported. The visit was to begin on Sunday.

At the beginning of the week, when staying in Warsaw, the chairman of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) announced plans to make a two-day visit to the Czech Republic. However, the party leader "probably made a mistake", an LDPR spokesman told CTK. As it turns out, it is necessary for Zhirinovsky to address intra-party affairs, which will require his presence in Moscow on Sunday and Monday.

A decision to postpone the visit was taken after LDPR representatives' consultations with the staff of the Czech Embassy in Moscow.

Earlier Prague had made it clear that it considers Zhirinovsky's planned visit as highly undesirable. In particular, Czech Interior Minister Jan Ruml stated an intention to make every possible step to prevent the LDPR leader from visiting the country.

Political Issues

Yeltsin 'In Excellent Form' at Sochi Retreat

PM1803194194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 1

[Igor Chernov report from the "Latest News: TRUD Correspondents and News Agencies Report" roundup: "The President Has Been Unlucky... With the Weather"]

[Text] Sochi—Russian President B. Yeltsin has spent almost a week in Sochi—half the spring vacation. Journalists are not allowed past the gates of the vacation home, and, as such, information about what is going on at "Facility No. 1" (as the president's dacha is called) has to be obtained secondhand.

N. Yegorov, chief of the Kuban Administration, and Sochi Mayor N. Karpov, who have visited Boris Nikolayevich, report that the president is in excellent form and was very keen to discuss the problems facing Krasnodar Kray and the resort of Sochi.

According to reports from other sources close to the president's entourage, Boris Nikolayevich is relaxing and putting in a lot of work on the mechanism for implementing the Memorandum of Accord. The only thing giving the head of Russia cause to complain is the mediocre weather. It is cool (plus 8 degrees) and overcast in Sochi, and it has been spitting rain all week.

Being on the territory of the president's dacha is a somewhat luckier break: It is one of three state dachas located in the central part of the resort on the Bocharovo Brook. I admit that I have not actually viewed its attractions, but I do know something of the specialized facility. The dacha is a two-story building built in the 1950's for the Union leadership. Khrushchev, Tikhonov, and Ryzhkov all took vacations here.... According to the recollections of older people in the locality, Boris Nikolayevich first came to the "Bocharka" in the fall of 1985.

Rumor has it that, on that fall evening in 1985, "Facility No. 1" made a good impression on Boris Nikolayevich, and when Yeltsin became president the main dacha on the Bocharovo Brook was assigned to him alone. Since 1991 the Yeltsins have spent two separate weeks a year here.

Boris Nikolayevich's aides and accompanying personnel live on the first floor of the building. The presidential suite is on the second floor.

The dacha stands on an elevated section of ground. From the windows there is a marvelous view over the sea, and all around is a fabulous, subtropical park in which rare plants abound.

Boris Nikolayevich as we know, prefers active recreation: limbering up on the tennis court, swimming in a pool with heated sea water, playing billiards... Of course, the dacha does have its own beach, but at this time of the year it is only "hardy winter bathers" who take to the sea....

Surveys Kuban Territory

LD1903124594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 19 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchyogoleva]

[Text] Sochi March 19 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin, Krasnodar Territorial Administration Chief Nikolay Yegorov and Sochi Administration Chief Nikolay Karpov flew over the south western areas of Kuban territory on Friday in a helicopter. They also surveyed the border area of Russia, the water areas of Novorossiisk and Tuapse ports, rice plantations, vineyards, and health resort complexes of Anapa and Sochi, a spokesman in the press service of the Sochi City Administration told ITAR-TASS on Saturday.

Most pressing problems of territorial development were discussed after the long flight. The president devoted special attention to matters connected with the accommodation of Russian Army units in those regions.

Migration problems, the development of inter-ethnic relations in the territory and various aspects of action to fight crime were discussed as well. The president instructed that the entire package of these matters be prepared to be discussed by Russia's Security Council session.

During the survey of the Tuapse and Novorossiisk ports, a programme for the development of the entire transportation complex of southern regions of Russia was discussed.

The president issued a number of instructions concerning the preservation of land reclamation systems in Kuban. A decision was taken to draft a special decree concerning the development of the children's health resort of Anapa.

Filatov on 'Rumors'

LD1903205794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Interview with Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian President's Administration, by correspondent Sergey Medvedev; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Medvedev] Sergey Aleksandrovich, the president is having a rest. Does that mean that the president's office is resting as well? I know that many of the president's aides are also resting or undergoing treatment—Kostikov, Ryurikov, Ilyushin—none of them are in the Kremlin. Who is in charge of the state in the president's absence?

[Filatov] Well, firstly, the president himself is in charge, because as you know he went, as he said, both to rest and to work. He is indeed working every day. Every day we receive signed decrees and orders from him, various instructions. Every day we speak to him on the telephone and consult him on various issues. So firstly, he has the entire situation in the country in hand. But the prime minister and the government are working, and naturally the president's office and administration are working as well. So we are all working.

[Medvedev] At the moment a second wave of rumors seems to be spreading. In the corridors of the State Duma, for example, these rumors were whipped up fairly actively on Friday. They concern Boris Nikolayevich's health. Do you speak to him often by telephone? Because people are even saying that the president nearly came back to Moscow in secret.

[Filatov] One of the unpleasant features or actions of the opposition that I have clearly perceived over the last two years at least, has been to inflate the question of the president's health, and especially to raise this question at the moment when the president is on vacation. And sometimes, I have a suspicion that these people want above all else to wreck his vacation—to summon him back early from vacation, for example, or just to spoil his mood on vacation.

I would like to make use of your camera to say: Give the president a chance to rest. He is a human being too, and he has a right to rest for 10 days or so twice a year, and to rest in peace and quiet, so that he is not tormented by these entirely superfluous and unnecessary suspicions being blown up. I can understand why—in order to create an atmosphere of nervousness in society. In this instance, I think that if society is driven into such a nervous state with the help of such rumors, it could result in some sort of disruption. Well, we have had enough disruptions.

Naturally, everyone feels a certain anxiety about the way our reforms will go in the future. But nevertheless, let us hope we can go on without any of those upheavals, which unfortunately, certain forces are trying to lead us into. You see, they are deliberately trying to remind us of those events, suggesting that they have thought up a new way to do everything in Russia.

But I think that if we do indeed proceed from civic accord, if we proceed from the fact that we want to achieve something as a society, I think we should get through the year all right.

Premier Flies To Sochi

LD2003224794 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2155 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The POSTFAKTUM agency reports that rumors are being circulated in Moscow that on 20 March Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin urgently flew to Sochi to meet the president, that telephones in the House of the Russian Federation Government on Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya are receiving only incoming calls and it is impossible to phone from the White House, and that special purpose units were put on red alert and can enter Moscow any minute. The source was connecting the emergence of these rumors with the alleged aggravation of Boris Yeltsin's health. However, in Viktor Chernomyrdin's reception office and the Russian Federation Government press service, this information was categorically refuted.

Answering a question by the POSTFAKTUM agency correspondent as to whether special purpose units have been put on red alert, a duty officer at the interior troops headquarters said that nothing of the kind had happened and nothing of the kind is expected.

Krasikov Denies 'Rumors'

LD2103121494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Immediately after meeting the Japanese minister early this morning, Viktor Chernomyrdin left for Sochi where Boris Yeltsin is on vacation. The unexpected movements of such high-ranking personalities give rise to the usual flurry of speculation and conjecture of all kinds, especially as there have been rumors recently that the president's health has deteriorated seriously. Rather than indulge in unproductive speculation, we telephoned the head of the president's press service, Anatoliy Krasikov. Here is what he said:

[Begin Krasikov recording] It had long been planned that they would see each other at some stage. After all, the government has prepared the draft budget for them to look at. This draft has been forwarded to the president, on the one hand, and to the Duma on the other. The Duma is starting to debate the draft. In other words, these issues have to be discussed. There are also a number of other practical questions. Right from the outset we said that the president was going there not just for a vacation but also to do some work. He is sending us documents. He is relaxing too. The other day he took a trip outside Sochi. So, he has done a little travelling in the North Caucasus. But he cannot cut himself off completely from political life in the country. So, he has to hold consultations with people here on the issues that the government is examining. This led to rumors that the president had returned to Moscow. He hasn't been in Moscow at all. Instead, he will meet Chernomyrdin there, on the spot, and discuss these things with him.

So, it's nothing to do with his health, or—there have also been other rumors about some kind of coup and God knows what else. This is all a strategy aimed at whipping up tension, which suits certain people. [end recording]

Press Service on 'Disinformation'

LD2103132694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1254 GMT 21 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 21 March—The press service of the Russian president has categorically denied fabrications about a deterioration in Boris Yeltsin's state of health, describing them as deliberate disinformation. The presidential press service classes such utterances as a factor whipping up the situation and destabilizing society.

Yeltsin Schedule 'Fairly Tight'

LD2103130094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin goes out on car ride or takes walks when he is not working, officials in his entourage told Interfax. In particular, he took a walk in the vicinity of Elbrus last week-end.

The sources said that Yeltsin's schedule was "fairly tight." Several senior administration officials, as well as Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, are expected Monday.

The exact date of Yeltsin's return to Moscow has not been set but his vacation will not exceed the originally planned two weeks, Interfax was told. Yeltsin left Moscow last Monday.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Meet

LD2103173594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1722 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Sochi March 21 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin vacationing on the Black Sea met with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Monday to discuss a range of political and economic issues.

Among the issues discussed were implementation of the president's state-of-the-nation address on strengthening Russian statehood, the state budget and ways to reach civic accord in the country, the presidential press service said.

Special attention was paid to the preparations for the upcoming spring sowing campaign in Russian agricultural regions, as well as the situation in Georgia, Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh and other issues.

After the one-to-one talks, the president and the premier were joined by Krasnodar regional administration head Nikolay Yegorov and Sochi mayor Nikolay Karpov. They agreed to set up working groups to work out a draft agreement on the delineation of powers between federal and local bodies of power as envisaged by the constitution and the federal treaty.

Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin supported the idea of holding the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi.

Spokesman Denies Telephones Cut

LD2103163994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Valeriy Grishin, first deputy head of the Russian government press service, strongly denied rumors that telephones had been deliberately cut off in the government residence.

He told Interfax Monday that the telephone lines in the building had been put out of order by hot water from a broken pipeline. As a result, some telephones were cut off and some only receive calls from the city, while calling from them is hopeless.

Officials in the Communications Ministry confirmed for Interfax the fact of a breakdown in the pipeline which resulted in disruption of telephone links with the government headquarters.

City utility services on Monday intended to pump water out of the trench where the cable is laid. The cable itself is to be dried out Tuesday and the damage repaired. If need be, the entire lines will be replaced.

Soskovets Denies 'Coup' Involvement

LD2103165494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1613 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets denied press reports about his involvement in the alleged "anti-Yeltsin coup" and asked the office of the prosecutor general to clear up the accusations.

The "OBSHCHAYA GAZETA" said in its 11th edition that a "group of state officials" planned "to oust President Boris Yeltsin" and listed Soskovets among them.

Acting Prosecutor General Alexey Ilyushenko ordered to check the claims, the prosecutor's office said on Monday adding that the Interior Ministry, [and] the Federal Counterintelligence Service are also engaged in the investigation.

It added that all measures are being taken to check whether the press report corresponds to reality and warned that the newspaper may face criminal charges "of slander combined with accusation of a state crime" if the report was false.

Further on Yeltsin Activities in Sochi

Discusses Agriculture With Kuban Governor

PM2103114394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Irina Kiryanova: "President On Vacation: So The Local Kolkhoz Members Get it in the Neck"]

[Text] Krasnodar—The Russian president, on vacation in Sochi, met there with Kuban Governor Nikolay

Yegorov. They discussed questions of the development of agriculture, the fight against crime, restrictions on migration to the kray, and the stationing of military formations on its territory. The president approved the local administration's actions.

Boris Yeltsin was told of the active dissatisfaction of the heads of major collective farms in the kray with the latest recommendations by the president's analysis center. Anger at price parity that puts the countryside at a disadvantage, at tax policy, and so on is now commonplace. But the proposal on breaking up farms immediately, on the threshold of the spring sowing, provoked the most vigorous protest.

It is a delicate matter. Why indeed destroy something that is at least functioning, feeding, and providing a service. And actually doing not badly, by Russian standards. At any rate, in the Kuban agriculture is better developed than anywhere else in the Federation. And it is actually based on the kolkhozes, not on anything else—for history deemed it so.

On the other hand, the local agrarian leaders are equivocating, claiming that the communal form of land use is a traditional one in the Kuban and cannot be revised. In the first place, it is not traditional, the Kuban has run the entire gamut in the past. Second, for decades no one has attempted to operate in any other way than as a kolkhoz.

Anyway, the latest news is that the president has been persuaded to leave the Kuban and its kolkhozes alone for the moment.

Approves Krasnodar Governor's Proposals

PM1803171694 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Bulygin report: "President Rests and Solves State Problems"]

[Text] Krasnodar Kray—During his short vacation in Sochi, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin has spent more than 12 hours a day untying "Gordian" knots." He is doing this by checking his plans against the opinions of regional leaders.

The meeting between the head of state and Kuban Governor Nikolay Yegorov lasted several hours. The latter admitted that he was pleasantly surprised by the president's knowledge of the state of affairs in Krasnodar Kray. That is why problems relating to the Kuban's economy and social and cultural spheres were discussed without any preamble.

The subject of the head of state's special concern was the development of the agrarian sector. The president focused attention on the need for more careful preparation and organized conduct of spring field work, and approved the measures being adopted by the kray leadership in this sphere.

Programs drawn up in the kray for the development of industry, construction, culture, the social sphere, and the fight against organized crime, and approaches to strengthening Russia's land and maritime borders with the Transcaucasus states and to the stationing of forces re-stationed in Kuban from nearby and more distant foreign countries, also met with Yeltsin's support. The president agreed with the proposals made by the head of the kray administration aimed at solving questions of interethnic relations, and he approved of the governor's intention to introduce a visa system for crossing the borders of Krasnodar Kray. B. Yeltsin advised Yegorov to present the relevant proposals to the federal authorities.

Supports Sochi as Olympics Candidate

LD2003135694 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1330 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has supported the idea of holding the 2002 Olympic games in Sochi. Having acquainted himself with a plan connected to putting forward the town as a candidate, he noted that the planned sports facilities can be used after the Olympics.

'Left-Center' Calls for Patriotic Alliance

PM1803161594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 1

["Left-Center Opposition Leaders' Appeal to Russian Federation Citizens" followed by Boris Slavin commentary under the general heading: "Accord for Russia"; last paragraph is Slavin commentary]

[Text] Various political blocs, coalitions, and alliances are taking shape in anticipation of possible presidential elections. Today we present an appeal by the left-center opposition, which has the blessing of Metropolitan Ioann of St. Petersburg and Ladoga:

There is calamity in our common Russian home. This is being discussed by families, on the street, in dying plants, and cold schools, it is being mentioned by the opposition and the government, religious and political figures, the Federal Assembly, and the president. Everyone secretly thinks the same—we cannot go on living like this. A halt must be called.

We have one means of salvation—we must come to our senses, extend our hands to one another in forgiveness of the mutual recriminations and transgressions. There will be no winners or losers in this confrontation. Each new conflict increases the danger of Russia's destruction. We contrast the folly of words and deeds with respect for the law and creative activity in the name of Russia.

A social contract between all patriotic forces, movements, ideologies, and faiths that reject violence, racism, and nationalism and that set civic service to the homeland above all else is what can stop the catastrophe.

The only freedom is that which brings prosperity to the fatherland, strengthens its independence, and provides guarantees of personal safety and faith in the future.

We people of different views, with a different way of life and thinking, representatives of various fragments of our multifaceted ideology and policy, state that we are setting up the movement "Accord for Russia," uniting all Russia's patriots—as has frequently happened in times of trouble for Russia—pooling our wealth, ability, and moral and political experience.... The "Accord for Russia" movement is open to all citizens in our multiethnic Russia who are able to help their fatherland at its time of severe trial.

We do not differentiate between liberals and communists, entrepreneurs and workers, private farmers, and kolkhoz workers, nor do we distinguish between republicans and supporters of presidential authority. We are uniting to perform urgent tasks in an endeavor:

—to avert the definitive breakup of historic Russia, the destruction of the cultural, economic, and political ties that have developed over the centuries between its equal peoples;
—to restore the power and might of Russia's statehood, providing its peoples and citizens with security and conditions for economic prosperity and the development of the individual;
—to protect national cadres and the scientific, technical, and defense potential of our great country;
—to stop reforms "for reforms' sake," the destruction of national production, protect the national market and national capital, and ensure conditions for Russia's move toward a postindustrial future;
—to bar the way to rampant crime and looting of the wealth that has been created by the work of several generations of our people and provide legal protection for state and private property;
—to avert unemployment and starvation, provide every citizen of the country with a fitting way of life and standard of living;
—to restore our peoples' sense of community, membership of and pride in a sovereign state, and their belief in justice, conscience, and good.

We have behind us the constructive experience and heroism of Russia's great citizens and our homeland's patriots. We have behind us the experience of 1,000 years of Russian statehood. We will strive to secure national accord, the consolidation of society, and mobilize all patriotic citizens to restore ravaged errant Russia.

[Signed] V. Zorkin, A. Rutskoy, M. Lapshin, A. Tuleyev, S. Glazyev, G. Zyuganov, P. Romanov, S. Baburin, V. Lipitskiy, A. Prokhanov, G. Seleznev, V. Chikin. A. Shilov, S. Govorukhin, N. Mikhalkov, A. Tsipko.

Thus, a coalition of left-centrist forces—effectively, the main popular-patriotic forces—has been formed. The intended split in the opposition following the amnesty has not taken place. On the contrary, most opposition forces have united. They include politicians and representatives of the creative intelligentsia—supporters of nonviolence and a rule-of-law state. The real democrats are wavering. But the door to the future is open to them. As for the radicals from "Russia's Choice" and "Democratic Russia," I think that they have had their day. Without simplifying the situation I will say: The way is closed to everyone who wants to see a repeat of October 1994 [date as published].

Rutskoy Cited on Presidency

LD2003162894 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1230 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Aleksandr Rutskoy might agree to be put forward as a candidate for the post of Russian president, if there is a clear and definite objective need for me as a leader. The former vice president said this in an interview to the Japanese KYODO agency, noting that he has sufficient knowledge and strength to conduct an election campaign and then head the state.

President's Press Service Responds

LD1803202894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] The Russian president's press service distributed a report today that says, in particular:

On 18 March, a number of newspapers published an appeal by a group of figures who announced the creation of an association that will be called Accord for Russia. The appeal was signed by a number of people known for the fact that, until recently, they held an irreconcilable stance vis-a-vis the president and his policies. The president's administration expects the new association to make a specific contribution to the preparation of an agreement on civil peace in Russia, and afterward, to its practical implementation. It is on the basis of these deeds that society will judge whether the intentions of the appeal's authors are sincere, the press service report says.

Russia's Choice Official Responds

LD1803171794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1123 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Kirill Ignatyev, member of the Russia's Choice parliamentary group coordinating committee and member of the parliamentary information committee, described the setting up of an Accord in the Name of Russia movement as the emergence of "Rutskoy's small party." Rutskoy is likely to run in the next presidential race.

Ignatyev told Interfax that it was significant that the appeal to Russia's citizens which declared the setting up of the movement had not been signed by the Liberal Democratic Party whose leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will "beyond any doubt" run for presidency.

Ignatyev took note of the fact that the appeal had not been signed by opposition figures such as Viktor Anpilov and Viktor Tyulkin, the leader of the Russian Communist Party, a rival of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, headed by Gennady Zyuganov, who did join the Accord in the Name of Russia.

Ignatyev thought that the setting up of a new movement reflected a deep split among counter-reformists and the tendency to build up various groups around presidential candidates.

He admitted, however, that "even though just a small number of counter-reformists rallied around the Accord, we must understand that the setting up of the so-called Rutskoy's party compels the democrats to consolidate." Russia's Choice would step up work on the setting up of its own party, he said.

Filatov on Progress of Work on 'Memorandum of Accord'

LD2103173794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—"Five expert groups which are preparing concrete sections of the memorandum of accord—on the economy, regional and national policy, security, law and culture and political life—are completing their work on the document," Russian Presidential Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov said.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, Filatov said that public accord is achievable on the basis of the memorandum. He expressed bewilderment over the attempts by some politicians to set up a new political bloc, "Accord for Russia." The participation of Constitutional Court member Valeriy Zorkin in this bloc revives the dispute about his inappropriate political activity which has already cost him his post of Constitutional Court chairman.

"There cannot be two consensuses. There can be only one consensus," Filatov said. Additionally, the idea proposed by Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, Zorkin, former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy and others looks "militant." "One has to dislike his nation particularly strong in order to whip up fear in society," he added.

President Boris Yeltsin's senior adviser Georgiy Satarov said that a joint team of experts will hold a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the memorandum. On Thursday, the text of the document will be handed over to Yeltsin who is expected to return from vacation by the end of the week. "The achievement of civic accord is not a one-time process," he said. It is open to all who want to join it, Satarov said.

Court Confirms Zhirinovskiy's Election to Duma

LD1803140394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow March 18 TASS—The Moscow regional court overruled today a lower court's decision stripping Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy of his seat in the State Duma.

The higher court annuled the decision of the district Shchelkovo court of February 25, which declared null and void the results of the parliamentary elections last year in the electoral district, in which Zhirinovskiy was elected to the the lower chamber of the Russian legislature. The court ruled that the decision was "inconsistent and surpassed the court's competency."

A statement issued today by Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party press service mockingly expressed "sympathy for certain politicians and mass media who failed again in their campaign to discredit Vladimir Zhirinovskiy."

Zhirinovskiy Says Situation To 'Deteriorate'

LD1903130794 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1230 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] The leader of the State Duma Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] faction Vladimir Zhirinovskiy considers that the country's political situation will deteriorate sharply in April. Speaking today at the eighth regional party conference in Moscow, he suggested that unconstitutional actions would again be undertaken. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is convinced that the LDPR will be victorious at the presidential elections. In his opinion, neither the Communists nor the new Zorkin-Rutskoy coalition nor any other opposition politicians have any chance of winning today.

Yeltsin Aide Promises Action Against 'Mass Unrest'

LD2003212394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Law enforcement bodies will use the entire arsenal of special means to prevent possible mass unrest in Moscow. This was reported by Yuriy Baturin, an aide to the Russian president for national security, in an interview to ITAR-TASS. According to him, the opposition groupings rejecting the Memorandum proposed by President Boris Yeltsin are preparing to hold major rallies and demonstrations in Moscow in May. To prevent a repeat of the events of May 1993, it is envisaged to use a number of technical contact-free means, including water-cannons. Yuriy Baturin stressed that in case of public order violations, legal mechanisms will be put into effect without delay, especially against those to whom the political amnesty was extended.

Coup, Yeltsin Illness 'Rumors' Viewed

LD1803202594

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 18 March broadcasts a regular 10-minute long "Details" program, presented by correspondent Sergey Dorenko, which is devoted to recent rumors about preparations for a coup in Russia and Yeltsin's poor health. Dorenko says that today practically everybody is talking publicly and openly about a conspiracy but the authorities are silent and behave almost as if they are participants in this plot. Today there were numerous meetings and sittings in the Kremlin and around it. People have discussed what to say, with whom to talk, and who will talk about the recent rumors. Many of them say they have nothing to talk about because there has been no coup. Some of them are afraid that if they talk about this with somebody, later the president may learn about it and, possibly, misinterpret their remarks.

Dorenko then says: "The latest information is that today some people from the State Duma called the Kremlin and asked one of the president's assistants whether it is true that the president was delivered by air this afternoon from Sochi in very bad condition so he could be treated here. Well, around ten people in the Kremlin say that this is a lie. But all of them are saying that they will not talk about this in front of the camera. We know that in the near future a certain event is to take place in Sochi where journalists with cameras will be invited and they will be able to show the healthy president to the people. The apparatus is working with awful delays which we would like to explain by the fact that they are simply doing their work inefficiently. The only person in the Kremlin who is not afraid to speak for television at all is Georgiy Satarov, the president's assistant."

The video then shows Georgiy Satarov giving an interview to Yelena Karayeva, an RTV correspondent. She asks him to comment on the rumors about Yeltsin's poor health. He says there are forces that would prefer to have a bad situation in the country. The correspondent asks him to explain whom he means. Satarov says: "There are two kinds of politicians. We are talking about those who are in principle outside legal politics and do not use legal methods, and those who, let us say, do not have experience in public politics and they know full well that they do not have chances, even if they are respectable people, they do not have chances to come to power as a result of a normal democratic process. These kind of people do exist. I am talking, above all, about the type and not about specific persons." He adds that he cannot speak about any particular person because he has no real facts.

The correspondent asks Georgiy Satarov whether former KGB members and former bosses of the Ministry of Internal Affairs who have money and real power even now could start to use all kinds of propaganda to influence people. Satarov says: "Yes, potentially, of course, this could be done. But I do not know for sure whether such a team exists or not at the present time. But some facts could be interpreted in this way." But he adds that he does not have enough facts to confirm this.

The correspondent then says that today they tried to speak about all these issues with many prominent political figures but they all refused to speak with journalists and said that they were too busy. Satarov says that it was difficult for him to find time for this interview as well and he has only a few minutes. He adds: "But on the other hand we should speak about this because, of course, people are interested to know where the president is, what he is doing, why he decided to have a rest and what all this means. Of course, they should know this and we should speak about it."

Presenter Sergey Dorenko then continues to comment on this issue. He says that despite the fact that the authorities do not want to speak about this it is clear that the Kremlin is very anxious about these rumors. For example, Yuriy Baturin has interrupted his holiday and returned to Moscow and Stepashin urgently returned to work after his illness.

Dorenko then discusses who was the organizer of these rumors and who would benefit because of them. There are several versions. One of them is that the president himself has organized all this so as to introduce a state of emergency in the country and thus, to get rid of opposition. This is a very weak argument. The second version says that some politicians like Soskovets, Luzhkov, or Skokov want to come to power now because they are afraid that "foolish and unpredictable" voters will allow Zhirinovskiy or Rutskoy to come to power. But the president supports these politicians and even considers Luzhkov as one of his possible successors. Communists are not interested in these rumors either because they do not have control over the Army and they hope to win only at open democratic elections. So, it seems as if there are no people who would be interested in all that. But the presenter adds that according to Yuriy Baturin these rumors are some kind of smoke-screen. He concludes: "When everybody gets used to talks about a conspiracy and stops paying any attention to them everything will start and we will learn the name of the author of the present artillery preparation."

Moscow Approves Removal of Vladivostok Mayor

LD1803161494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] The deputy chief of the regional desk of President Yeltsin's Office Sergey Samoylov has told an IF reporter the president's men approved the removal of Vladivostok's Mayor Viktor Cherepkov from office.

Cherepkov was unseated Wednesday evening. Addressing the present situation in Vladivostok, Samoylov said he had kept an eye on Cherepkov's performance ever since he rose to power.

Soon after he was elected Mayor, Cherepkov arrived in Moscow with a bulky package of documents detrimental

to the image of Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko of the Primorskiy Region. A subsequent inquiry showed, however, that the negative data related mostly to performance by Nazdratenko's predecessor Kuznetsov.

Cherepkov's opponents responded in kind and presented Moscow with a package of negative data on his performance. They claimed, among other things, that, pretending to be a sea captain, Cherepkov had visited Japan to buy a dozen cars.

According to Samoylov, Cherepkov spent at least four of his several months in office in Moscow. His dispute with the region's leaders diverted his attention from the city's problems. More than once he moved to restructure the city government, took control of the districts' budgets and earmarked substantial sums in aid to the local media editions which acted as his mouthpiece. His efforts to update the city government proved a failure.

The State Legal Administration suggested that Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko unseat Cherepkov. First, however, Nazdratenko was to have appeared on television to explain what motivated his move against the Vladivostok Mayor. The Primorskiy Administration preferred to stall until Viktor Cherepkov was accused of bribe-taking and a number of his associates were arrested, several weeks ago. On representation from the court authorities, Cherepkov was finally removed from office.

Rally Supports Mayor

LD1803151894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Eduard Popov]

[Text] Vladivostok March 18 TASS—A rally in support of ex-Vladivostok Mayor Viktor Cherepkov was held on Thursday night on Vladivostok central square. The ex-mayor's supporters estimated his removal from the post as a "gross violation of human rights, non-observation of the Russian constitution and laws and the return to 1937".

The rally attended by several hundred persons adopted a resolution to demand that the higher instances remove Maritime governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko and Maritime procurator Valeriy Vasilenko from their posts.

A reason for the demand of Vasilenko's resignation is "the lack of the territorial procurator's office control over lawfulness and permission of the eviction of the legitimately- elected mayor from his study with the use of force".

According to reliable sources, Viktor Cherepkov has gone on a hunger strike and is staying at home.

As for ex-mayor's Deputy Vladimir Gilgenberg, pushed out from the mayor's office, he has not been produced any documents to substantiate his removal from the mayor deputy post. Asked about reasons for this situation, senior assistant of the Maritime Territorial Procurator Veniamin Chichayev told ITAR-TASS "It is not the business of the procurator's office, and acting Vladivostok Mayor Konstantin Tolstoshein has the right to choose his deputies himself".

Criminal proceedings instituted against Viktor Cherepkov on charge of major bribe-taking in February 1994 have been taken over by the Russian procurator general's office.

New Mayor Plans for Future

LD1903134294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 19 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok, 19 Mar—"People have breathed a sigh of relief," Vladivostok's new head of administration Konstantin Tolstoshein affirms. He told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that at the first planning meeting he told the Mayoralty officials: "Whoever does not agree to work with us can be dismissed." Tolstoshein noted that "so far few have expressed such a wish." Today he and his assistants have been at their desks since early morning.

As already reported, criminal proceedings have been instituted against the Vladivostok Mayor Viktor Cherepkov. He has been accused of accepting bribes amounting to 3 million rubles. At the decision of the kray administration he has been removed from his post. The proceedings have been temporarily suspended until the arrival in Vladivostok of the investigator for especially important cases of the Procuracy-General, Konstantin Mavrin.

"For ten months the former head of administration Viktor Cherepkov and his team thoroughly neglected the town's economy, including the building from which they administered the town," Konstantin Tolstoshein noted. "Apart from the documentation which the Procuracy has to sort out, everything there is tangled. No debit and credit books were kept, accounts were not kept properly. As a result financial funds were spent without thought."

The newspaper BOLSHOY VLADIVOSTOK Tolstoshein affirms, "reflected the interests of Cherepkov and received at his personal order several hundred million rubles. And that at a time when there is a catastrophic lack of funds for social needs and the town's municipal economy is neglected. Seeing their extravagant masters, the officials of lesser rank were none too thrifty with the taxpayers' money either."

Konstantin Tolstoshein said: "When I was asked to become head of the town administration, I thought for a long time. I realized it would be difficult: the townsfolk had been fooled by Cherepkov's populist slogans and promises. I myself am a native of Maritime Kray. I started as building site foreman, I became district

administration head, then headed the committee for military industry of the kray's admidnistration. I am no stranger to difficulties."

Zyuganov Reports to Communist Party Plenum

PM2103111294 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Mar 94 p 3

["Report by Gennadiy Zyuganov at the CPRF Central Executive Committee Plenum, 15 March 1994," under the general heading: "What Is To Be Done Next?"]

[Text] We must devote today's plenum to a serious discussion of our party's situation, its internal state, and its place in the present-day political arena in the ranks of the united opposition. We are to discuss the theses for the formulation of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] Program "From Crisis to Stable Development," the resolution "On State Patriotism," and the CPRF's attitude to religion.

A Hundred Days After the Elections

Recently, and especially in the past six months, the opposition, and the Communists as its largest and best-organized detachment, have undergone severe trials. The CPRF has emerged from these trials, on the whole, in a well-organized manner, having retained the capacity to conduct broad, Russia-wide political actions such as the 12 December elections, and enriched by experience of parliamentary work that is new to it. But are there grounds for complacency? No, there are not.

The truth must be faced: The opposition is operating under extremely difficult conditions. Virtually all its energy is going on mere survival. We did not allow ourselves to be routed in the coup d'etat, but we were unable to rebuff the coup, and are now having to "play" by rules imposed from outside. The opposition has failed either to prevent or substantially to delay the development of the socioeconomic situation according to the most negative scenario.

Time is passing, and the systemic crisis is deepening. Damaging distortions in the economy, social relations, politics, and the moral and spiritual sphere have reached a stage where they could become irreversible. The country is in effect consuming and using up the last material and human reserves which it could have used to overcome its catastrophic condition.

Urgent countermeasures are needed. After the December elections many organizations, especially at primary and rayon level, came up against the question: "What is to be done next?", and they do not always find an answer. The consequence is that organizations become inward-looking, the old squabbles and splits are renewed, and numbers are falling.

The party's central organs bear their share of responsibility for this. In the past months we have devoted the greater part of our efforts to setting our parliamentary activity in motion.

In principle the Central Executive Committee Presidium is aware that mastering the methods of parliamentary struggle is an important landmark in the formation of a fully functional political party, but that this is not the full extent of party tasks. The faction should put all its potential at the service of the party, rather than the party serving as an appendage to the faction.

The growing pains we are experiencing today indicate that the process of the CPRF's formation as a political party with a wide arsenal of forms and methods of organizing the working people to fight for their vital interests is only just beginning and is far from complete. A difficult path has to be traveled, and in the context of an acute shortage of time.

Our positions and influence on the masses are significantly weakened by the fact that the party does not yet have a detailed theoretical program for the long term. The Program Statement adopted by the Second Congress, the Central Executive Committee Presidium letter to Communists last summer, and a number of press statements by leadership members have been important stages in this work.

Let Us Define Together the Model of Socialism

The theses for the formulation of the party program are offered for the attention of the plenum participants today. Their very title indicates that work on the main party document must continue. A number of problems remain open, and these cannot be "closed" simply by repeating the tried and tested tenets of Marxist-Leninist doctrine (as has been done in the programs of certain left-wing parties). These include, first and foremost, questions of the nature of the emerging technical and economic structure on the basis of which socialism is to gain its second wind; the fundamentally new situation developing in the "man-society-nature" system, etc. It is also necessary thoroughly to analyze the causes of the crisis in the model of socialism that developed in the USSR. In short, a new contribution to the theory of socialism is required. Incidentally, communists abroad are also waiting for us to do this.

Clearly, in such a case it is better to think everything through yet again than to arrive at overhasty decisions. The following procedure for further work on the program is therefore proposed. After today's exchange of opinions, further work on the theses will continue, with wide discussion of them being organized in the country's party organizations. They will be discussed again at the conference in April and adopted as a partywide document. The final version of the program will be drawn up on the basis of these theses and adopted at the third party congress in the fall of this year.

We must act considerably more promptly in formulating another document which we urgently need. I am referring to the action program defining the party's strategy and tactics in the conditions of deepening crisis over the next 18 months to two years. This program could be adopted as early as the April conference.

I wish to stress that it is not a question of a "conventional" anticrisis program of the kind that opposition parties and movements have already put forward plenty of. Suffice it to recall our own theses for a preelection platform, as well as the platform specifically drawn up for the December elections. Here we listed, in the conventional manner, the measures that we would adopt if we were in power. Necessary as programs of this kind are, their Achilles heel was that they remained only promises for the future or—at best—menacing demands on the authorities. We remember well what the authorities did when they heard our demands.

Therefore, without departing in any way from the substance of those demands, we should formulate our tasks not as a ruling force, but specifically as an opposition force, and construct a program of concrete action not simply on the basis of considerations of the need for this or that measure, but on the basis of the party's actual position and its present forces and potential, with a view first and foremost to extending that potential and strengthening the party's influence on social processes.

Allow me to set forth the basic ideas which, in our view, could form the basis of the program for the CPRF's next actions and its strategy and tactics for the period ahead.

Immediate Actions and the Most Important Demands

Being in opposition to the political and socioeconomic course of the president and his government and assessing that course as antipopular and ruinous to the state, the CPRF believes that its priority task is to promote the quest for and creation of the political conditions for a peaceful solution to the crisis. The irresponsible actions of executive structures, headed by the president, have already in effect plunged the country into a slow-moving civil war which threatens at any moment to develop into a full-scale one. But that way lies the abyss.

Since, literally in the last few days, talk of accord and reconciliation has suddenly become universal, a kind of fashion, it is necessary to explain what we see as the essence of civil peace and the conditions for its restoration.

First, civil peace does not mean universal brotherhood or the elimination of all possible disagreements. It is a means of resolving them nonviolently. The struggle between different social trends is inevitable, but it must not lead to the ruin of the state, its economy, and its social and spiritual sphere. In order to prevent this, a broad social and political coalition must be formed on the basis of recognition of national and state interests and the values of popular accord, a movement capable, by virtue of its weight and influence, of neutralizing and isolating—politically, economically, and morally—the "civil war party," which represents criminal, comprador, corrupt, and lumpen elements.

With goodwill and elementary social responsibility, the political spectrum of such a coalition could prove very broad: from communists and socialists, through national patriots and centrists, to democrats—without quotation marks.

Second, we must stress that the movement to restore civil peace is not confined to verbal nods in the right direction, but must be backed up by concrete steps. Here the amnesty declared by the Duma and the freeing of political prisoners is only the first step. Having voted in the Duma for the Memorandum on Accord, the Communist faction has also formulated further conditions necessary for national reconciliation:

1. A change of socioeconomic course and the formulation of a national-state doctrine, taking into account all the 1,000 years of experience of Russian statehood. We declare frankly that Russia will not overcome the crisis without socialist development.

2. The formation of a government of national confidence, based on a parliamentary majority and monitored by and accountable to the Duma. This presupposes the departure of detested figures such as Chubays, Kozyrev, and others.

3. An end to the humiliation of the Army and organs of state security and the militia, and the prevention of their use as a gendarmerie and an instrument of internal political struggle. Conversion.

4. The renunciation of ideological vengeance and of the abasement of science, culture, and traditional religions. Two laws.

5. The immediate restoration of debts to peasants, wages to the workers, medicines and support to old people, and free education to children and students. The agrarian sector of the economy must take priority. The citizens of the country must get the minimum consumer basket.

6. Emergency measures to combat corruption, organized crime, and banditry. Assured security for everyone.

7. A guarantee of the objective exposition of the positions of all political forces in the state mass media and the preservation of a nationwide information area.

8. The restoration of a renewed union state on a voluntary basis on the initiative of the Russian Federation—a legislative initiative.

Thus, civil peace is not a single act of signing some kind of pompous declaration. It is a complex, comprehensive process, and at the present stage its interests should determine our attitude toward all sociopolitical realities: the president and his administration, the government, the various draft laws and social initiatives, political parties, strikes, and other mass protests.

Widening of the Social Base, Formation of a Coalition

The strategic gask at the present stage is the widening of the social base of the opposition and the formation, on this basis, of a coalition of people's patriotic forces which would assume government of the state through election victory. It is not ruled out that early elections will be necessary. In any case, the early presidential elections which the striking miners are demanding today could—provided Yeltsin and the other organizers of the coup d'etat do not take part—be the best way out of the situation of confrontation. The amnesty was, after all, adopted so as to ensure the most painless opportunity for the departure of all those politicians who have—deliberately or otherwise—dragged the country into chaos and fratricide. But there is no great hope that the "civil war party" will correctly assess the magnanimity of the State Duma.

The implementation of the above plan will largely be determined by the social and psychological characteristics of the present moment.

Today society is in a phase of low social activeness. The number and scale of mass movements of various kinds are declining and there is clear evidence of people having had enough of politics and retreating into private life. At the moment it is rather difficult to get people together to support even the most just of causes. Similar periods have always been favorable times for all kinds of backstage intrigues and deals at the highest level, for palace coups.

On the other hand there is mounting disillusionment with the course and faith is disappearing in the latest "bright future," a capitalist one this time. There is a gradual shift to the left under way in public mood but so far it is still a passive shift, expressed mainly in the form of voting for left-wing forces.

But the general deterioration in the masses' economic situation and the continuation of inflation combined with the decline in production and the transformation of concealed unemployment into open unemployment are making strikes and other active social protest actions inevitable. But here there is a great likelihood that these actions will remain mainly spontaneous, uncoordinated, and ineffectual.

That is why there will be an even greater increase in hopes of the arrival of a "strong individual," a kind of "social messiah," and a naive faith in simple and extremely rapid solutions for all problems. Favorable ground is being formed for new illusions, demagoguery, and populism.

In these extremely contradictory conditions the party's main line of conduct is calmly, without getting involved in adventures and without succumbing to likely acts of provocation, in collaboration with all patriotic forces to expand its influence on all social processes and in all strata of society and to prepare for the inevitable new social upsurge ideologically and organizationally in order to be able to direct it into not a spontaneous and destructive channel but a creative one.

Are we ready to resolve these tasks? We have a certain amount of work in hand. Today the CPRF is perhaps the only party with a "full profile" organizational structure and quite good prospects of creating a similar network of deputies' factions and groups.

Turning the Party to Face Society

But the effectiveness of party structures so far remains low. As I have already said, the organizations are inward-looking and often have no ties even with each other or with higher ranking committees. Organizational work is now a weak spot in party organs of all levels, including central organs. And let us be frank: The age and social composition of our primary organizations so far fails to meet the requirements of the time. This is in no wise a rebuke, merely a statement of fact. We must realize that vast social and demographic strata—primarily the working class and young people—are outside the sphere of steady party influence, and that processes in the labor collectives, that is precisely where the most complex knot of present-day problems has been tied, are proceeding without our influence.

Closed party groups and closed party measures often become the place where like-minded people in their narrow circle unburden their hearts, cursing the existing regime, and are essentially a means of psychological defusing, not psychological mobilization. And several levels above that are street meetings, also a virtually unchanging cast of players, and also increasingly reduced to the role of a psychological safety-valve. The task is to turn the party to face society. To stop stewing in our own juice and to reach a new level of political activeness as close as possible to daily life, to the needs and concerns of people with no interest in politics and no faith in any parties. Only in this way can we expand the party's sphere of influence and the basis of its social support.

What can the primary territorial and professional party organizations do here? A number of tasks are perfectly obvious and lie on the surface. They must be resolved constantly.

The dissemination of the opposition press. And not among our "own" people but among the "others." It is enough for a territorial group to set up a permanent newspaper kiosk in a prominent place and to ensure the delivery of the press and in their concern for its content, updating, and restoration the group will instantly forget the meaning of the words "we don't know what to do with ourselves."

The defense of rights. And not "in general" but specific legal and moral aid for specific citizens in defending their rights as consumers, apartment tenants, pensioners, and so forth. In our organizations there are people who have the necessary education, experience of life, and free time for this and who still have the strength to take on this burden.

Elections. To ensure that this event does not take us unawares each time it is obviously necessary to create permanently operating election committees. Their functions should include the selection and preparation of potential candidates for elected posts in the administrations and representative organs of all levels; the compilation of detailed socioeconomic and political "portraits" of the relevant territories and the elaboration and constant updating of election programs on their basis; and the training of a staff of activists so that from the moment they start to collect signatures through to voting day each person knows "his move."

In brief, without fearing accusations of "opportunism and reformism" (which—let there be no doubt of it!—will ensue immediately) we must openly and honestly adopt the so-called "theory of small deeds." Let us remember Lenin: "If something kills us, it will be the revolutionary phrase."

Of course these deeds are by no means small. Our organizations may not have the strength even to fulfill the above-mentioned tasks. But in reality the party's current daily tasks are even broader. The party cannot exist and develop fully unless Communists take a personal part in the activity of all existing social organizations and structures and pursue their line through these organizations and structures.

Among these organizations the most important for us are the labor collective councils (where they still exist), the trade unions, and the strike committees. And in general the extension of the communist party's influence to the labor collectives is the number one tasks. Other parties are also setting themselves this task.

So far the CPRF has paid utterly inadequate attention to this question. We see our immediate task here in setting up relations with trade unions at all level while at the same time helping to establish independent trade unions of a left-wing, socialist orientation.

We would be making out that what we want is reality if we were to start to claim that in its present state the party can embark on the solution of urgent problems, relying mainly on the initiative, experience, and cadres of local organizations. No, here, as before, leadership and control from above are needed, serious methodological and material aid are needed. The Central Executive Committee and its commissions and expert consultative groups must immediately gather, generalize, and analyze available experience and on this basis prepare standard methodological recommendations for the main avenues of work. Special cadres training will also be needed. It is also clear that it is already impossible to organize and coordinate the party's activity even at rayon level on a voluntary basis. It is essential to form an institute of full-time party organizers, using for this the material potential of CPRF factions and groups in representative organs.

These factions themselves, primarily in the State Duma, must become a serious school for mastering the science of state administration and the attentive study of the situation and legislative activity. It is simply frivolous to speak of coming to power without this basic preparation.

Following Traditions, Looking into the Future

Now about one more field of activity which is obviously in need of considerable consolidation. That is information, agitation, and propaganda. To this day the party does not have its own press organ. There are several reasons for this and primarily, of course, financial difficulties. Perhaps there is a need to announce a special collection of funds for a party newspaper (which, of course, does not do away with the Communists' statutory duty to pay their membership dues regularly). But it is not only a matter of finance. Even our supplement in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA is published only rarely and does not fully perform the role either of a collective agitator or of a collective organizer. I am obliged to admit that no one in the Central Executive Committee and its apparatus is specially concerned with this matter or rendering assistance to the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA editorial office. I think there is no need to explain the harm the entire party is suffering as a result. Right now a number of options are being worked out for rectifying the situation and the problem must be resolved without fail in time for the conference.

Our ideological and agitation and propaganda work must be subordinated to the task of forming in the public consciousness an image of the CPRF as the party of Soviet state patriotism and social justice. The CPRF preserves the historical continuity of the communist and workers movement and loyalty to its best traditions and at the same time looks into the future. Our slogan is not "back to socialism" but "forward to socialism."

Today, when an increasing number of people are becoming convinced of the monstrous historical error that was committed by the division of the Soviet Union, it is important to stress in particular the direct connection between the implementation of the socialist idea and the idea of restoring the union state and the Soviet form of the power of the people on a new basis. This year several jubilees are being celebrated recalling the great importance of the unity of the fraternal peoples. It is the 340th anniversary of the Pereyaslavskaya rada [meeting of Ukrainian people which decided to reunite with Russia] and the reunification of Ukraine with Russia; the 80th anniversary of the start of World War I; the 50th anniversary of the day of the complete liberation of USSR territory from the German fascist invaders. And, of course, the greatest jubilee of all—the 50th anniversary of victory—is approaching. We will celebrate the birth centenary of G.K. Zhukov, the greatest military leader of all time and all peoples. We must celebrate all these dates fittingly, together with all Soviet people, together with the Communists of Ukraine, Belorussia [Belarus], and other republics.

Comrades! The depth and complexity of the range of problems I have outlined forces us to raise again and

again the question of the unity of actions of the left-wing and patriotic forces and of the communist movement in particular.

It is known that in the majority of regions Communists belonging to different parties operate as virtually a single organization. In this connection numerous demands are being made on the central organs for the speediest unification. There is a widespread opinion that this is being prevented only by the leaders' personal ambitions. Of course there is that. But we cannot fail to see that we are also divided by substantial policy and tactical differences.

On the basis of experience since August we have reached the following conclusion. Under present conditions the real unity of the communist movement can be ensured not through the formal unification of leading organs and leaders of different parties and groupings, not through the eclectic mutual amendment of their theoretical platforms, but through an exclusively correct program of specific practical actions stemming from the objective conditions of the current moment. We believe that the CPRF's decision to go to the December elections and the package of election documents adopted at the time was such a program, which united Communists "from below" while many members of the left-wing parties were sometimes working actively counter to direct bans from their central organs.

Our task must continue to be not to suit all tastes but to formulate correctly the Communists' current and strategic tasks and to organize their solution. We must complete this work at the party conference in April and today we must discuss how best to prepare for the conference.

Addresses Opposition Rally

LD1803213294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] "Russia is being ruled by an anti-Russian, anti-popular regime which while speaking about democracy shot at the parliament, destroyed the economy and is driving the country to hunger," Russian Communists' leader Gennadiy Zyuganov told a rally of opposition supporters in Moscow. The rally in the Small Arena of the Luzhnikiy Stadium was timed to the third anniversary of the referendum of the future of the former Soviet Union.

According to the police, about 3,000-4,000 people took part in the rally.

On March 17 1991, about 70 percent of the voters favored the preservation of a renovated Soviet Union.

According to Zyuganov, "the ruling regime is devastating Russia as a superpower and destroying its science and culture. But the conscience of the people is waking up." Zyuganov pointed to the need for an immediate adjustment of the course of reforms, the formation of a government of popular confidence, "an end to the destruction of the army and state security bodies and the restoration of a united state."

The leader of the Russian All-People Union, Sergey Baburin, said that "justice demanded an uncompromising struggle against those who dismantled the Soviet Union. We are ready for civic accord, but we expect the sinners to make the first step."

According to Baburin, if President Yeltsin "wanted peace, let him come to us and repent." He called on opposition forces for consolidation and pointed out: "We will resuscitate our fatherland (meaning the Soviet Union - IF's note) despite any obstacles."

In his address to the rally, Deputy Anatoliy Lukyanov proposed the movement Accord for Russia be turned into another movement called Accord for Restoration of the Soviet Union. He also proposed the new movement set up its regional committees to encompass local nationalist, patriotic and pro-Communist forces. The committees could organize the struggle for the restoration of the Soviet Union, Lukyanov was quoted as saying.

The rally was also attended by former Soviet Deputy Sazhiy Umalatova, Secretary General of the Communist Bolshevik Party of All Soviet Union Nina Andreyeva and Russian Communist Workers' Party Secretary Viktor Anpilov.

Russian National Sobor To Be 'Transformed'

LD1903170794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1331 GMT 19 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS—The Russian National Sobor (Assembly) (RNS), headed by Former KGB General Aleksandr Sterligov, should be transformed into a political organisation "so that it could participate in the formation of power and administration bodies of the Russian Federation", speakers said at a meeting of the Moscow City conference of the RNS here on Saturday. An RNS congress is to be held in Suzdal early in April to adopt a charter of the organisation.

The conference was addressed by RNS leader Aleksandr Sterligov. He made an evaluation of the situation in the country, noting disunity among the ranks of the patriotic forces of Russia.

It follows from Sterligov's remarks the RNS has virtually lost all allies after the events of the Autumn last year and the December parliamentary elections. Sterligov pointed out the correctness of the RNS' principled position of nonalignment with respect to the National Salvation Front as well as non-participation in the latest elections.

Gas Industry Sets Up Anti-Terrorist Units

MK1903125094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Gazprom Sets Up Its Own Anti-Terrorist Unit"]

[Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned that some time ago, rapid reaction groups were set up at Mostransgaz and a number of other Gazprom branches. They are called security services, but their area of expertise is somewhat unusual. Apart from protecting shipments, people, and installations, they are called upon to fight terrorism at gas production facilities. They also guard the pipeline that pumps gas abroad. The bulk of the group is made up of former KGB and Internal Affairs Ministry staffers. They all are authorized to carry firearms, which, however, have never been used. Those who do not have the right to carry guns are now completing a crash course to receive a certificate required by the Internal Affairs Ministry authorization department.

Yeltsin Decree Suspends Leningrad Region Resolution

LD1803211594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2009 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 18 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree "On suspension of a resolution of the Leningrad Regional Government," the Presidential Press Service Reports. The decree runs as follows:

"Bearing in mind, the resolution of the Leningrad Regional Government of February 7, 1994, #5 'on measures for preparations and holding of elections of the Leningrad Regional Legislative Assembly, local government bodies and a regional referendum on draft rules of the Leningrad region' in part of holding the regional referendum on draft rules of the Leningrad region violates Paragraph 2 of Article 66 of the Russian Constitution, under which rules of a territory, a region, a federal city, an autonomous region and an autonomous district shall be adopted by a legislative (representative) body of corresponding subject of the Russian Federation and being guided by Paragraph 2 of Article 85 of the Russian Constitution, I resolute:

- to suspend the validity of the resolution of the Leningrad Regional Government of February 7, 1994, #5 'On measures for preparations and holding of elections of the Legislative Assembly of the Leningrad region, local government bodies and a regional referendum on draft rules of the Leningrad region' in part of holding the regional referendum on draft rules of the Leningrad region".

The Leningrad regional Government scheduled for March 20, 1994, a regional referendum on draft rules of the Leningrad region.

This decision was protested against the regional procurator as not corresponding to Article 66 of the Russian Constitution. Under this article, such legal acts shall be adopted by legislative (representative) body of a corresponding federation subject. However, such a body has not been elected in the Leningrad region. The elections of the Regional Legislative Assembly are scheduled for March 20.

The regional government rejected the protest of the procurator, and the president used his constitutional right to suspend the regional government's resolution on the referendum, although he has nothing against the rules themselves.

Yeltsin Edict on Creation of 'Citizenship Department'

LD1803165394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 18 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree on a citizenship department at the Russian president's office, reported the Russian president's press service on Friday.

The decree sets up the citizenship department on the basis of the former citizenship division at the president's office. The president appointed Abdulakh Kasbulatovich Mikitayev chief of the department. He will concurrently head the commission on citizenship at the Russian president.

The department's main task is to ensure the commission's operations in conducting a united state policy in the sphere of citizenship.

Yeltsin Edict on Agency for Work With Regions

PM1703142994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Edict No. 456 of the Russian Federation President "On the Administration for Work With Territories of the Russian President's Administration" dated 7 March 1994 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, followed by text of applicable statute]

[Text] **Edict of the Russian Federation President on the Administration for Work With Territories of the Russian President's Administration**

With a view to improving the system of interaction between federal organs of executive power and organs of state power of the components of the Russian Federation, I decree:

1. That the Administration for Work With Territories and Representatives of the Russian Federation President and for Relations with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation President's Administration be transformed into the Administration for Work With Territories of the Russian Federation President's Administration.

2. That the attached Statute on the Administration for Work With Territories of the Russian Federation President's Administration be approved.

3. That the leadership of the Russian Federation President's Administration propose candidates for chief of the said Administration and also approve its structure and table of organization, proceeding from a maximum personnel strength of 50 persons.

4. That Appendix No. 4 to Edict No. 23 of the Russian Federation President dated 22 February 1993 "On Improving the System of Backup for the Activity of the Russian Federation President" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSIYA, 1993, No. 9, Article 735) be deemed null and void.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] Moscow, The Kremlin 7 March 1994
No. 456

Statute on the Administration for Work With Territories of the Russian Federation President's Administration

I. General Provisions

1. The Administration for Work With Territories (hereinafter referred to as the Administration) of the Russian Federation President's Administration is a structural subcomponent of the Russian Federation President's Administration.

II. Basic Tasks

2. The Administration's basic tasks are:

to provide backup for interaction between the Russian Federation president and federal organizations of executive power, organs of representative and executive power of the components of the Russian Federation, interregional associations, and organs of local self-government;

to organize the prompt provision of information on the sociopolitical situation and interethnic relations in the regions of Russia to the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation President's Administration;

to assist the Russian Federation president in pursuing personnel policy in the components of the Russian Federation;

to prepare for the Russian Federation president and the leadership of the Russian Federation President's Administration predictions of the development of the sociopolitical and socioeconomic situation in the regions of Russia and to formulate proposals on questions of regional strategy and policy.

III. Functions of the Administration

3. In accordance with its basic tasks, the Administration performs the following functions:

it collects and processes incoming information from the regions of Russia, prepares informational and analytical surveys (reports) on the sociopolitical and socioeconomic situation in the regions of the Russian Federation and submits them to the president of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Russian Federation President's Administration;

it provides backup for interaction between the Russian Federation president and organs of executive power of the components of the Russian Federation and the plenipotentiary representatives of the Russian Federation president in the components of the Russian Federation;

it cooperates with the Government of the Russian Federation, ministries, committees, and other organs of federal executive power on questions relating to work with the components of the Russian Federation;

it organizes interaction between the Russian Federation President and organs of local self-government and interregional associations;

it assists the Russian Federation President in pursuing personnel policy in the components of the Russian Federation;

it analyzes and coordinates the activity of the Russian Federation president's representations in the components of the Russian Federation;

it informs the organs of power of the components of the Russian Federation and regional mass media of the Russian Federation president's stance on fundamental questions of regional policy;

it carries out comprehensive analysis of the state of inter-ethnic relations in the regions of the Russian Federation and formulates proposals for their normalization;

it organizes expert groups to visit the regions with a view to studying the sociopolitical and socioeconomic situation.

IV. Backup for the Administration's Activity

4. In order to perform the functions with which it is tasked, the Administration is entitled:

to request and obtain, in accordance with the prescribed procedure, essential information from federal and territorial state organs, institutions, organizations, and enterprises;

to make use of the data banks available in the Russian Federation President's Administration and also—in accordance with the prescribed procedure—of the data banks of federal and territorial organs of executive power;

to utilize state, including governmental, communications systems;

to involve in its work, including on a contract basis, scientific establishments and academics and experts working in state and nonstate bodies, institutions, organizations, and enterprises;

to plan business trips by Administration staffers in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

5. The Current Information Center of the Russian Federation President's Administration provides the Administration with reviews of material from central and regional and also foreign media.

6. Material and technical, documentational, legal, and informational backup for the Administration is provided by the Administration of Affairs of the Russian Federation President and corresponding components of the Russian Federation President's Administration.

The financing of expert analysis, research programs, and sociological studies commissioned by the Administration is effected by the Administration of Affairs of the Russian Federation President in accordance with the scientific research work plan approved by the leader of the Russian Federation President's Administration.

V. Leadership of the Administration

7. The Administration is headed by a chief appointed to and released from this post by the Russian Federation president.

8. The Administration chief has two deputies for designated areas of activity (Administration structure attached) (Footnote) (The Administration's structure is not published here), who are appointed to and released from their posts by the leader of the Russian Federation President's Administration.

VI. Administration Chief's Rights and Duties

9. The Administration chief heads up all Administration activity and bears responsibility for the results of this activity and the state of discipline in the Administration.

10. The Administration chief:

prescribes his deputies' duties;

determines the tasks of departments and other structural subcomponents of the Administration and approves regulations governing these departments and other structural subcomponents of the Administration;

is entitled to sign official documentation within the limits of the Administration's area of responsibility;

makes representations for the establishment, amendment, or cancelation of salary increments for Administration staffers and submits proposals for awarding bonuses;

is able —within the limits of his powers—to issue corresponding directives on organizational questions relating to the Administration's activity.

Economic Issues

IMF Said Unlikely to Grant Credit

LD2103101194 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] The talks between Russia and the IMF have reached an impasse. As a result of this the most likely consequence will be the IMF's refusal to grant Russia the second part of the systematic credit of $1.5 billion. I remind you that the first part of the credit was given to Moscow in 1993.

INTERFAX, quoting informed sources, reports that the main reason for the probable refusal is the deficit of almost 10 percent in the draft budget approved by the government. Sources claim that during the discussion and approval of the budget by the State Duma the deficit will grow even more.

Nikolay Gonchar, chairman of the Federation Council's budget committee, commented on the possible refusal to grant the credit at the request of our radio station:

[Begin Gonchar recording] I think that this is not the only reason that the talks with the IMF have ended as they have. In order for me to draw any conclusions I would have to look at more detailed documents, but I think that the main reason, from my point of view, is the fall in production. The fact is that inflation is caused by two things, and the main one—as Yegor Timofeyevich Gaydar used to speak about at sessions of the former Supreme Soviet—is the fall in production. From February 1993 to February 1994 production fell by 24 percent. I think that the defining factor was not the level of inflation, but the ability to overcome it. But I repeat again that this is a very serious document and needs deeper analysis. [end recording]

At the same time this afternoon the Russian Finance Ministry and the IMF mission will renew their bilateral talks on offering the second part of the systematic credit in the context of the conditions put forward by the IMF's managing director, Michel Camdessus. INTERFAX was told this by a high-ranking spokesman in the Finance Ministry. The source refused to say exactly what these conditions are, but he noted that they, I quote, considerably complicate the progress of the talks. According to the source, on Sunday evening a meeting was held in the Finance Minstry at which the head of the IMF attached new conditions to the question of offering Russia $1.5 billion. Camdessus has not put forward such conditions previous to this meeting.

IMF Denies Report

LD2103112794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] The POSTFACTUM agency, referring to sources close to the leadership of the IMF, has circulated a report that talks between the IMF leadership and the Russian Government have reached an impasse. The report also

says that the IMF leadership is examining the question of the closure of its mission in Moscow. The Moscow mission of the IMF told a Mayak correspondent that this report by the POSTFACTUM agency is misinformation. Talks between the IMF delegation and Russian representatives are continuing at present. It is expected that Michel Camdessus, the fund's managing director, will meet with Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government again tomorrow.

Chernomyrdin Submits Draft Law on Budget Spending

LD2103163894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] On Monday Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin submitted to the Russian State Budget [as received] a draft law on federal budget spending in the second quarter of 1994.

Under the draft in the second quarter the Russian Central Bank is to lend the government 10.6 trillion rubles for covering the federal budget deficit. The loan will be given for 10 years at 10

interest with repayment in equal installments beginning in 1998.

In his message to the Duma the prime-minister said that before the draft law is approved the government intends to earmark means proceeding from budget plans and considering the actual spending in the first quarter.

According to preliminary reports, in the first quarter federal budget spending has been as follows:

on the economy -908 Bn rbls,
government investments 969 Bn,
on social and cultural programs 1109 Bn,
on defence 3627 Bn,
on law enforcement bodies 1077 Bn,
to local budgets under mutual settlements, including subsidies and subventions 2080 Bn.

The budget message also said that taxes and payments to the budget in the first two months amount to 4.7 trillion. The figure predicted by the government for March should not exceed 3.3 trillion.

The prime-minister pointed to the reduction of the share of taxes and payments in the federal budget. Last January the debt of Bashkiria to the federal budget was 52 Bn rubles, Tatarstan 37 Bn and Yakutia 32 Bn.

Mayors Appeal to Yeltsin on Customs Tariffs

LD2103102194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0933 GMT 21 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—The mayors of Russia's three largest cities—Yuriy Luzhkov of Moscow, Anatoliy Sobchak of St. Petersburg and Aleksandr Chernetskiy of Yekaterinburg have appealed to President Boris Yeltsin to veto the new customs duty rates, which the Russian federal government introduced from March 10.

The mayors fear that the new tariffs will endanger the provision of food to the country's major cities. They cite specialists who say that the decision on new rates will further rupture traditional trade links between Russia and "near abroad" and lead to an abrupt reduction of import food deliveries.

The three city leaders who signed the appeal believe that the aim pursued by the government—to protect and support the domestic agricultural producers—will not be achieved. They say that the domestic firms which supply food products to major cities are abruptly reducing their activity and all the major cities are already facing considerable shortages of the most important foodstuffs.

The appeal stresses that the food market in the major cities has dwindled dangerously, increasing the impoverishment of the people.

Chernomyrdin Offers Economic Solutions

PM2103144794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 1

[Yuriy Rytov report: "Viktor Chernomyrdin addressed the Federation Council. He Suggested to Deputies... Five Ways of Finding the Trillions"]

[Text] Unfortunately the grotesque word "nonpayments" has now become firmly established in the vocabulary not just of economic managers but of Joe Public too and has afflicted all spheres of the economy like a cancerous growth. In his speech to the Federation Council session, Viktor Chernomyrdin cited the following figures: As of 1 March, the debt owed to enterprises was 25 trillion rubles [R] whereas the debt owed by them was R32 trillion. This means that there are R7 trillion missing from the equation: Even with mutual offsetting of debts throughout all production chains and all types of economic ties, there would still be a colossal amount owed—many consumers will not have the actual resources with which to settle their debts.

I think that, in these extremely difficult conditions, Viktor Chernomyrdin has offered some quite effective methods of overcoming the crisis.

Method one. Clear the budget debt to enterprises (R4.6 trillion). The method: direct payments, the issue of promissory notes (over R1 trillion), and the reduction of taxes on enterprises equivalent to the amount owed.

Method two. The granting of centralized credits to end consumers to facilitate targeted payment for supplies along the entire production chain.

Method three. The introduction into circulation of commercial promissory notes, which would signify a property liability for financial commitments assumed.

Method four. A rigorous procedure for bankrupting enterprises which are not viable, are merely a drain on financial resources, and do not yield a return.

Method five. Rigid taxation discipline, which ensures that the revenue sections of the budget are properly topped up.

So, it seems, the premier's team has finally rolled up its sleeves. There is just one question here: Why has it taken so long? Let us recall that back on 23 February our newspaper published an extract from a memorandum of the Russian Federation President's Analytical Center dedicated to the problem of nonpayments. The center's recommendations are very close to the premier's proposals. Furthermore, in our view they include a number of additional measures not yet taken into account which would make it possible in principle to prevent similar crises in the future. Once again there is cause to blame the extremely complex social and political situation in the country, which is diverting the government from the solution of the most urgent problems.

Soskovets Endorses Cutting Taxes for Producers

LD1803143594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Magnitogorsk March 18 TASS—"The present system of taxing enterprises when taxes sometimes total 80 per cent of revenues, must be changed," Russian First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets told journalists on Friday after a conference on how to make the Magnitogorsk iron and steel combine a joint stock society.

According to Soskovets, taxes should be cut down to 45 per cent, as is the case in civilised countries. "Tax legislation should stimulate production and not to pave grounds for concealing taxes, as is the case now," the vice-premier stressed.

Soskovets noted that the government plans to examine the question of cutting the value-added tax in the near future. He stressed that it is necessary to "lift customs duties from goods crossing borders inside the Commonwealth countries".

Shokhin Wants 'Emergency Action' on Economy

MK1903083094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 2

[Valeriy Batuyev report under the "Reformers" rubric: "Aleksandr Shokhin Promises To Amend Laws "To Resolve Emergency Situation in the Economy"]

[Text] Despite the fact that Russian enterprises have more than $90 billion in foreign bank accounts "they are in no hurry to settle with the suppliers," Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin stated off the record to a group of journalists at the Federal Assembly. Besides, he said, tax inspections do not keep tabs on incomes of enterprises although there exist in every state rules formulated through long experience under which enterprises volunteer to pay taxes toward the budget. Such a rule, Mr. Shokhin thinks, should also operate in relations between components of the Russian Federation. Said the vice premier: "Therefore we are to amend the legislative acts (laws on banks, enterprises, entrepreneurial activities, and the tax system) in the near future so as to quickly introduce these mechanisms of controlling a market-based economy.

To the question from your SEGODNYA correspondent on how this can be done quickly, Aleksandr Shokhin made it understood that this does not mean introducing a command system: There is "an element of emergency, but it is not an emergency in the political sense of the word. This is a normal system for control of a market-based economy, ...an emergency action is warranted by the current situation in the economy and by the fact that the 1994 draft budget forwarded by the government to the Federal Assembly can be turned down." Therefore Mr. Shokhin is inclined to think of the need for a collective approach to bringing the country out of the economic crisis. The vice premier proposed to create for this purpose a "roundtable" bringing together the Russian Federation Government, the State Duma, the Federation Council, and public organizations. He also thought that there should be some corrections made: "Is it worthwhile for us to hasten with privatizing Gazprom-type state enterprises and oil enterprises, using vouchers. It may be better to spare them for a privatization stage where cash is involved."

Aleksandr Shokhin thinks that Russia will not be able to bring down inflation and stop the continuing production slump without such a package of measures.

Nuclear Station Union Leaders on Coming Shutdowns

MK1903102094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 2

[Andrey Nikolayev report under the "Threat" rubric: "Russian Atomic Electric Power Stations 'On the Verge of Shutdown.' Workers of Atomic Stations in Kursk Continue Hunger Strike"]

[Text] Leaders of the Central Committee of the Atomenergoprom trade union, "Electroprofsoyuz," as well as chiefs of the "Rosenergoatom" concern told journalists in a press conference in Moscow yesterday that a dangerous situation has currently taken shape at virtually all nuclear stations of Russia which carries "a real threat to the country's security and, unless urgent measures are taken, may result in emergency situations in the regions entailing grave social and ecological consequences." According to Vladimir Kashkin, deputy chairman of the

Central Committee of the Atomenergomash trade union, the situation results from nonpayments and the lowering of the rate of payment for electric power on the part of the "Single Power Supply System of Russia" joint-stock company. Owing to the absence of monetary funds, atomic electric power stations [AES] could not buy nuclear fuel and did not carry out in good time the scheduled repairs, reconditioning, maintenance, and reconstruction. The remaining stock of nuclear fuel at most AES's around Russia is enough for them to operate at nominal capacity for not longer than one month. Specialists think that a forced shutdown of AES generators would result in nuclear stations' becoming, instead of producers, major consumers of electric power to remove residual energy from nuclear fuel, and would serve only as storages for highly radioactive materials.

Vladimir Kashkin also stated that an extremely tense situation has taken shape in the collectives of nuclear stations, including nuclear safety personnel, over delayed wages. Mass protest actions against the government's economic policy have already begun. For example, five workers of the Kursk AES continue their hunger strike announced on 11 March. According to Kursk AES director Vladimir Gusarov, the strikers demand that debts for the already supplied electricity be settled, and that wages for December, January, and February be paid. They also insist on meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to prevent a social explosion in work collectives.

The press conference organizers announced that owing to explosive developments, the coordination committee on joint actions, set up three days ago at a joint conference of Atomenergoprom and "Elektroprofsoyuz" trade unions representatives, forwarded yesterday an appeal to the Russian president, prime minister, and chairmen of the Federal Assembly chambers. It says that "the work collectives' patience is not limitless." It also contains a demand for an urgent discussion in the government of issues connected with ending the crisis in power engineering, and for the passing of Russian Federation laws "On Atomic Energy" and "On Electric Power Engineering."

[Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 0400 GMT on 19 March adds, in a report from Murmansk: "The Kola nuclear power station has four power units. Two of them have already been closed down. The planned close-down of the third power unit is scheduled for 22 March. Naturally, such a sharp reduction of power supply to enterprises in the oblast will immediately affect the economic situation in the region, because the nuclear power station provides 60 percent of all the electricity produced in the Kola Peninsula. The Murmansk Oblast enterprises will certainly feel the power shortage, but first of all the supply of power will be stopped to neighboring Karelia and Leningrad Oblast. The nuclear power station has no guarantee that the fourth power unit will not be closed down as well."]

Military Issues

Grachev on Future Role of Antiaircraft Defenses

LD2103115994 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1130 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has denied reports of future cuts in antiaircraft defense troops. Instead, in conversation with journalists he said that the military department has examined the issue of the expediency of continuing to preserve the present antiaircraft defense structure. In Grachev's opinion, under current conditions there is no need for antiaircraft defense forces to cover all sites. Therefore a decision has been taken on protecting only main sites, in particular nuclear and hydroelectric power stations, defense industry factories, and state institutions throughout Russia. Grachev also reported that the military department intends to get rid of antiquated antiaircraft defense systems.

Kozyrev on New Arms Exports Corporation

LD1803204594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2012 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow March 18 TASS—"The creation of the "Rossvooruzhenie" corporation is another step taken by Russian President Boris Yeltsin with the aim of fostering the Russian statehood and Russia's position in the world community" said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Friday night, addressing the ceremony of the inauguration of a new state corporation "Rossvooruzhenie" for exports and imports of weapons.

The corporation was established in accordance with the Russian president's decree and on the basis of three former foreign trade associations. The task of the newly established corporation is to ensure state monopoly over exports and imports of weapons and defence hardware for the development of military and technical cooperation with foreign countries.

Kozyrev pointed out that the development of military cooperation with foreign countries promotes the growth of Russian industry, creation of work places and higher industrial output. At the same time, the development of such cooperation is a tangible contribution to strengthening peace and stability both in the world and in separate regions.

Any country which supports and develops such cooperation with Russia, can count on Russia's diplomatic support. At the same time, by developing such cooperation, we expect an adequate attitude from our foreign partners and honest attitude in trade, the Russian minister said.

Weapons as an item for exports cannot be regarded as a conventional commodity, and therefore, Russia seeks to give weapons trade a civilized character. "We shall see to

it that weapons do not spread over the world, and primarily, its most destabilizing specimen and weapons of mass destruction," the Russian foreign minister said.

Grachev on Aims of Kaliningrad Oblast Visit

PM2103123394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 1

[Valeriy Gromak report: "Amber Coast Is Special Russian Defense Region. Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation Defense Minister, Tours Kaliningrad Oblast"]

[Text] Pavel Grachev arrived in Kaliningrad on the afternoon of 17 March and was "besieged" by journalists as soon as he deplaned. Their interest was entirely understandable, despite the planned nature of the defense minister's trip. The naval force withdrawal from Poland and the Baltic countries, the fact that Kaliningrad Oblast is an enclave, and, finally, the concentration there of many Russian Federation Ground Force units withdrawn from abroad all ultimately determine the region's position from a specifically defense-based viewpoint.

Pavel Grachev described the aim of the trip as follows:

"First, it is necessary to look in detail at the state of Ground Force and Baltic Fleet subunits. Second, we must listen to the proposals from Admiral Yegorov, the fleet commander, and from Lieutenant General Anatoliy Pimenov, commander of the 11th Separate Combined-Arms Guards Army, for the rational deployment of troops and the creation in Kaliningrad Oblast of a special defensive region.

It needs to be stressed that work in this area has been under way previously. On the eve of the defense minister's visit to Kaliningrad Oblast representatives of the General Staff were already at work. On the eve of the defense minister's visit to Kaliningrad Oblast representatives of the General Staff were already at work. Army General Konstantin Kobets, chief military inspector and deputy defense minister, and the commanders in chief of the Russian Navy and Ground Forces have also been here to work out their own proposals.

Such close attention to the problems of the ground and naval forces deployed in Kaliningrad Oblast has given rise to various suggestions, including some very unlikely ones. For instance, certain analysts have proposed that Russia might give up the Baltic Fleet for purely economic reasons.

But Pavel Grachev stated at the airfield: "I want to see the fleet more combat capable than it is at present." He went on to note that the naval forces would most probably be based in both Leningrad and Kaliningrad Oblasts. And in the numbers necessary to safeguard security and ensure the reliable defense of our state. "The operational grouping that is being created here should ensure the defense of the territory from military threats not only from the sea, but from the land as well," Pavel Grachev said.

This was also discussed during the Russian Federation defense minister's meeting with garrison officers. Army Gen. Grachev also talked about the progress in reforming the Russian Armed Forces, noting the weighty contribution made by Kaliningrad Oblast to solving the problem of the drafting of young people to the Russian Federation Armed Forces. The draft plan has been more than 40 percent overfulfilled in this area. This is the best indicator of any region.

The defense minister paid particular attention to the condition of naval and Ground Forces units in Kaliningrad Oblast. By dint of its position the oblast has a special place within Russia. This makes increased demands on the system for the command and control of naval forces and Ground Forces units.

On the whole, the defense minister said, the forces of the Baltic Fleet and the 11th Army are carrying out the tasks they have been set. But even higher results are expected during these checks.

The defense minister briefed those present on what is currently being done in the Russian Armed Forces and talked about certain results of the start of the new training year. Army Gen. Pavel Grachev stressed that main efforts have been focused on the practical implementation of the plan for the Armed Forces' organizational development, the creation of force groupings—above all, mobile force groupings—the enhancement of the command and control system, the search for a fundamentally new approach toward Armed Forces utilization, and the improvement of the organizational and personnel structure. But the main task for the Russian Armed Forces in 1994 is to maintain their combat readiness and combat capability at a level that ensures that the state is defended under any circumstances, and to carry out the tasks laid down by the main provisions of Russia's military doctrine.

In the first two and a half months of 1994, the defense minister said, the plans for troop and naval force training have been carried out. Two command post training sessions have been held at the strategic level and more than 10 at the operational-tactical level. It is planned to hold another training session before the end of the training year on the command and control of Strategic Nuclear Forces, and the "South '94" command post exercise. It is planned to hold the "Northwest," "Baykal," and "Vostok" regional command post exercises and the "West" operational rear services command post exercise. This, in Army Gen. Grachev's words, will make it possible to prevent any decline in the level of combat readiness.

The defense minister's order on the early promotion of a number of the most outstanding Army and Navy officers was read out at a meeting at the garrison Officers House

and valuable gifts were presented. A brigade of artistes under the leadership of Iosif Kobzon gave a concert.

The same day Army Gen. Pavel Grachev heard reports from Adm. Yegorov, commander of the Baltic Fleet, and Lt. Gen. Pimenov, commander of the 11th Army. That night the naval forces were rallied upon the signal to assemble.

On Friday the defense minister visited the fleet's alternate command post, attended a naval infantry brigade tactical exercise, and met with the crew of the destroyer Nastoychivyy.

Federal Assembly

One-Mandate Constituency MPs Fail on 'Equal Rights'

LD1803164394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Deputies of the State Duma elected in one-mandate constituencies again failed to include an amendment to the Duma's draft regulations to make rights equal to those of party factions.

According to the present regulations, only deputy groups numbering at least 35 members are eligible for official registration. The official registration gives such a group the right to be represented in the Council of the State Duma and all rights of party factions.

So far only one deputy group, New Regional Policy, with 65 out of the 219 deputies elected in one-mandate constituencies, has been officially registered. Thus, a large number of deputies are not represented in the Council of the State Duma. Two deputy groups—December 12 (leaders Irina Khakamada, Aleksandr Braginskiy and Yevgeniy Bushmin) and Russian Way (leaders Sergey Baburin and Anatoliy Lukyanov) do not have the required number of deputies.

During the discussion of the corresponding amendment to the regulations of the State Duma, Chairman of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said that his faction will support this amendment only in exchange for the introduction of the so-called "imperative mandate" which will give the faction the right to deprive any deputy elected on the party ticket of the deputy mandate.

"It is not possible for a party to get rid of criminals," Zhirinovskiy said. As is known, lately two deputies, Viktor Kobelev and Aleksandr Pronin, have left the LDPR faction because of disagreement with the leader of the faction.

The leader of the December 12 deputy group Khakamada stressed in her speech that the refusal to register their group means violation of equal rights of the deputies and the aggravation of conflict inside the Duma.

Sergey Baburin (Russian Way) in turn spoke against the imperative mandate because, in his opinion, "each deputy should be free in voting," and "the discipline in the faction should be established by persuasion, not by whip."

In respone Zhirinovskiy accused Baburin of "already having led one parliament to being shot" and demanded that he should not interfere in the internal affairs of the party.

Nevertheless, a majority could not be found to support any of the variants of the corresponding article in the regulations. A package proposed by Zhirinovskiy also failed to get a majority of votes. So, the article determining the number of deputy groups required for official registration was sent for elaboration to the working group.

Duma Receives State Budget for 1994

LD2103093894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] The State Duma has received the 1994 draft budget. Aleksandr Pochinok, deputy chairman of the budget committee, said there are no major divergences from the original version. The deficit has risen from 61.2 trillion rubles to 62.4 trillion. This is due to a minor increase in the budget's expenditure allocations. Aleksandr Pochinok noted that the budget is fairly tough and the deficit is completely acceptable. At the same time he stressed that the government is again trying, via budgetary laws, to change the tax legislation.

Regional Affairs

Roundup of Regional Elections

LD2003181294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1736 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Orenburg - The necessary 25 per cent turnout was reported in the elections of candidates to representative bodies of power in 28 of 47 constituencies of the orenburg region. Chairman of the Regional Electoral Commission, Yuriy Andreyev, told ITAR-TASS that the necessary turnout will be reached in at least four other constituencies before polling stations close today. According to the law, two-thirds of 47 candidates have to be elected to enable the regional legislative assembly to come into force.

Final results of the polls will be announced by 5 a.m March 21.

Vologda - Only 6 out of 15 regional electoral commissions reported the necessary 25 per cent turnout in elections by 14:00 p.m.today. Over 20 per cent of electors had cast their votes in the Vologda region by this time. The Regional Electoral Commission hopes that the necessary 25 per cent barrier will be reached by the time polling stations close today.

Perm - Reports from the Perm region say that a number of deputies' seats in the Perm regional assembly and local government will remain vacant. Only 22 out of 40 constituencies reported the necessary 25 per cent turnout in the polls. Chairman of the Regional Electoral Commission, Anatoliy Lebedev, told ITAR-TASS that by-elections which under the law can be held in twelve weeks, will require additional expenditures of no less than one billion roubles.

St.Petersburg - The turnout in elections to representative bodies of power in the Leningrad region is rather poor. Only 10 per cent of registered electors had voted by noon today. Under the law, elections are recognised valid if no less than 25 per cent of electors take part.

Omsk - Over 33 per cent of registered electors of the Omsk region had turned up at polling stations by 18:00 p.m. Sunday. The highest turnout was reported in rural regions. However, elections will be considered valid only in three Omsk districts. In the remaining four districts of the city the turnout was 19-22 per cent.

Kirov - The necessary 25 per cent turnout had been reported by 16:00 p.m. only in the town of Kotelnichi of the Kirov region, while in all other towns the turnout fell short of the needed number. By 16:00, the turnout in the regional centre was 20 per cent.

Kudymkar - Komi autonomous region - the turnout in elections in the Komi-Permyatsks autonomous region had reached the level of 27 per cent by 16:00 p.m. at two polling stations elections were attended by second secretary of the Finnish embassy in Russia, Maimu Henriksson, who was interested in social motives prompting electors to cast their votes in favour of a certain candidate.

Preliminary Results Released

LD2103104494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0912 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—Preliminary results of a regular stage of local elections to representative bodies, held on March 20 in some regions of Russia, were made public today. According to the Central Electoral Commission, elections were scheduled for that day in the Belgorod, Vologda, Kamchatka, Kirov, Leningrad, Murmansk, Omsk, Orenburg, Oryol, Perm, Smolensk, Tver and Chita regions, the city of St. Petersburg and three autonomous districts—the Aga- Buryat, the Komi-Perm and the Nenets districts.

Elections to the supreme representative body of the Aga-Buryat Autonomous District, the district duma, have taken place. Residents of that steppe area showed a traditionally high activity: some 60 per cent of electors came to the polling stations. The elections were recognised as valid in all the 15 constituencies. The district duma will be made up mostly of heads of regional organisations, agricultural amalgamations and industrial enterprises.

At the same time, the activity of electors in the Chita region was unprecedentedly low. According to preliminary data, a little more than 30 per cent of electors took part in the voting. An electoral campaign and elections will have to be repeated in five out of 21 constituencies, a spokesman for the regional electoral commission told ITAR-TASS.

Candidates, nominated or supported by the democratic forces of the Baykal territory, suffered a serious defeat in the Chita region. Most seats in the regional parliament went to heads of industrial enterprises, farms and budget-financed institutions.

The legislative assembly of the Orenburg region will not be able to start working. Protocols from local electoral commissions are still coming, but it is known already that the elections were not recognised as valid in 19 out of 47 constituencies: 12—in Orenburg, six—in Orsk and one in Novotroitsk. Repeated elections will be held in three months in those constituencies, where electors did not come to the polling stations. According to the information, received by ITAR-TASS at the regional electoral commission, the elections were a complete failure in the city of Orenburg, which includes 13 constituencies. Only one deputy was elected, while in the rest of the constituencies the elections were recognised as invalid, because too few people took part in the voting.

Kamchatka residents also failed to elect deputies to the regional legislative assembly with the first attempt. Elections were recognised as valid in five out of eight constituencies, while in three biggest four-seat constituencies, located on the territory of the administrative centre of the region, only 17 per cent of electors came to the polling stations. Thus, only nine out of 21 deputies were elected, a spokesman for the regional electoral commission told ITAR-TASS. According to his information, elections to the city dumas were valid in Yelizovo and Vilyuchinsk, while Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy was left without a representative body. A referendum on giving new names to the streets and moving monuments to Lenin to other places did not take place either. Today the regional electoral commission is expected to name the date of repeated elections to the legislative assembly.

The regional assembly of people's representatives has been formed in the Belgorod region. The March 20 elections showed a comparatively high activity of electors: some 44 per cent of them came to the polling stations. However, the figures differ much in various constituencies. In rural areas the figure was 55 per cent, while in Belgorod—24.3 per cent and in Stary Oskol—24.4 per cent. As a result of it, the elections were recognised as invalid in three out of five constituencies of Belgorod and in two out of three constituencies of Stary Oskol. The overall result is that the elections were held in 16 out of 21 constituencies, and in all the 16 of them deputies to the regional assembly were elected. This is enough for the new representative authority to start working. About half of the seats went to heads and deputy heads of local city and district administrations.

Elections in the Perm region did take place, but only 34.4 per cent of electors came to the polling stations. According to preliminary information, 37 deputies to the regional assembly were elected, while in three constituencies the elections were recognised as invalid because of a small number of participants. Two out of 14 seats in the Perm City Duma remained vacant. The Perm regional assembly will include nine representatives of business circles, ten senior executives of enterprises and seven heads or deputy heads of local administrations.

In the Kirov region 36 per cent of the electorate took part in elections to the regional duma and local government bodies. The elections were valid in 45 out of 48 constituencies. The regional duma will include 13 heads of agro-industrial enterprises, 11 heads of local administrations, nine medics, one workers. One woman was elected to the regional duma.

Elections were recognised as invalid in the Lenin and Oktyabrskiy districts of Kirov and in the city of Kirovo-Chepetsk, the second largest city of the region after the administrative centre. Only 25 per cent of electors came to the polling stations.

Elections to the regional duma were a complete failure in Murmansk. None of the three constituencies registered the needed number of electors. According to preliminary information, only 20.6 per cent of them took part in the voting in the Lenin district of the city. The figure for the Oktyabrskiy district is 19.6 per cent, and for the Pervomaiskiy district—only 13.4 per cent. Information from other constituencies is being specified.

Low Turnouts Reported

LD2003102794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0950 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy March 20 TASS—The elections to local councils in the Kamchatka region may fail due to a low turnout of voters. According to the regional electoral commission, only 12.5 per cent of the electorate went to the polls by 15:00, local time, on Sunday (elections are considered to be carried out if at least 25 per cent of the electorate participates in them).

Only nine per cent of registered voters went to the polling stations in the regional centre where the bulk of voters live.

Taking into account that there is foul weather in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy (strong cold wind), the electoral commission granted a right to all the aged to vote at home where members of the electoral commission come with balloting paper boxes. The commission has not recorded for the time being any incidents or election violations.

Servicemen are voting at city polling stations for the first time (earlier, they voted at their units). Regrettably, many soldiers and sailors went to the city for a walk but do not go to polling stations.

Their argument is reasonable enough: It is difficult to make a choice right away if you arrived to serve on the Kamchatka Peninsula quite recently from another region. Besides, there was no time to follow the election campaign.

Orenburg—a total of six per cent of registered voters went to the polls in the Orenburg region two hours after the opening of polling stations, and the figure stood at 15-21 per cent in the Sorochinskiy, Dombarovskiy, Krasnogvardeyskiy and Aleksandrovskiy districts.

Chairman of the regional electoral commission Yuriy Andreyev told ITAR-TASS that he is confident that "the elections to the regional legislature will be held in all 47 constituencies".

Chita—the turnout at the elections to the Chita regional council is very low this Sunday. According to information received by 14:00, local time, voting is active only in several countryside districts where between 40 and 50 per cent of voters went to the polls.

Urban residents are in no hurry to vote. In Chita, for instance, only 15 per cent of the electorate participated in the polls by 14:00, while in the city of Krasnokamensk—only 11 per cent.

The situation is quite different in the Aginsky Buryat Autonomous Area which is also holding elections to the Chita regional and area councils. Over 40 per cent of voters went to the polls there by 14:00, local time.

Smolensk—the lowest turnout at the local elections was registered in the regional centre by 10:00. The local administration spared no effort to open snack bars and to stage entertainment shows at polling stations.

This notwithstanding, voters are in no hurry to participate in voting. All in all, 820 polling stations opened in the Smolensk region on Sunday for the elections to the local council.

Leningrad Regional Elections May Be Invalidated

LD2003144894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Elections to the Leningrad Regional Legislative Assembly held on Sunday March 20 are likely to be qualified as invalid, member of the Regional Electoral Commission Valentina Molotova told Interfax.

She said that by 12:00, March 20, only 114,706 people had come to the polling stations which is 9.3

of the total number of electors. The Regional Legislative Assembly, which is to approve the regional budget and pass legal acts, has 25 seats. The Regional Electoral Commission has registered 103 candidates.

Karelian Premier Quits Election for Parliament Chairman

LD1803173394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1123 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Sergey Blinnikov, prime minister of Karelia, a constituent republic of the Russian Federation, has dropped out of the race for chairmanship of the parliament. The election is scheduled for April 17. He is expected to explain his decision to the Supreme Soviet's session to be held in Petrozavodsk Friday.

The incumbent Chairman Viktor Stepanov who is also running for this position told Interfax that he regretted what happened. He said that the interest of the electorate would not be met if there was no alternative candidate. He also said that he did not intend to quit the race and would not do so unless there were important personal reasons. He described his rival's decision as disrespectful of the electorate and thought that the opposition would say that there was no choice in the election.

Observers noted that while 5,000 signatures were needed to register a candidate in the election, Blinnikov's supporters had collected 6,000 while Stepanov's had a total of 15,500 signatures.

Missile Fired at Chechen President's Residence

LD2003143894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Saturday night the residence of Chechen President Dzokhar Dudayev came under fire. A spokesman for the law and order authorities has declined comment. Forces protecting the president's palace in Groznyy have, nonetheless, told an IF correspondent that around 22:00 a seeker head rocket was fired on the palace. There were no casualties, although several 9th story windows were broken and the roof's eaves suffered damage. Dudayev had by that time left the palace.

The republic's Security Department has opened a legal inquiry into what it sees as a terrorist act.

Suspects Arrested

LD2103132994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Several people suspected of involvement in shelling the residence of President Jokhar Dudayev were detained in Groznyy, the Chechen capital, Shamsuddi Vakhidov, head of the anti-terrorist squad in the republic's Interior Ministry, told Interfax. He added that a criminal case had been launched by the investigation branch of the State Security Department.

A guided missile was fired from a nine-storey house under construction one kilometer away from the presidential palace late Saturday. No significant damage was done. Officials in the presidential headquarters did not confirm that the shelling had taken place.

Chechen President Replaces Top Officials

LD2003182194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] President Dzhokhar Dudayev of Russia's separatist republic of Chechnya on Sunday made some major replacements in his civil service. He dismissed Prosecutor General Elza Sheripova (the post still being vacant), Interior Minister Salman Albakov was replaced by Magomed Eldiyev, chief of the Penalty Execution Department, chief of the Criminal Police Department Saipuddi Khasanov was replaced by his deputy Said-Khasan Batayev, while Akhmed Gaduyev, a district prosecutor, was substituted for Idris Albastov as Supreme Court chairman.

Observers do not see any connection between these replacements and an attack on Dudayev's residence on Saturday evening.

N. Ossetian President for Normal Relations with Neighbors

LD1903210594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1331 GMT 19 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 19 Mar—"The parliamentary hearings at the Federal Assembly and the closed session of the Federation Council are yet another attempt to settle relations between North Ossetia and Ingushetia by peaceful means, North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov said today.

Speaking at a republican government session, members of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet Presidium, and heads of local self-government bodies of Vladikavkaz and regions, he stressed that the Republic of North Ossetia was extremely interested in establishing normal relations with all its neighbors in North Caucasus and the Transcaucasus. However, the multi-ethnic people of the republic denounce the use of force in resolving these issues. The issue of refugee return to Prigorodnyy Rayon should not be forced either. This problem should be tackled by conciliatory commissions on the basis of the Kislovodsk Agreements.

The North Ossetian president reiterated his readiness to meet Ingush President Ruslan Aushev to discuss the settlement of relations between the peoples of the two republics.

Speaking about the position taken by the commission of deputies that worked in the state of emergency zone and who reported to the parliament on the results of its trip to North Caucasus, Akhsarbek Galazov said that it had gathered vast material but had made hasty and nonobjective conclusions which may cause the situation in the region to explode and may bring to naught all earlier peace-making efforts by the North Ossetian leadership and the interim administration.

He added that at the proposal of Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko, a special commission would be set up to draw up objective solutions aimed at settling the situation in the conflict zone.

Urges Extended State of Emergency

LD2003111394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1058 GMT 20 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz March 20 TASS—"There is now a danger of a new conflict in the area said North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov, speaking at a meeting with republican leaders here on Sunday. Therefore, it is expedient to prolong the state of emergency regime in several districts of the region, expiring on March 31.

"The Russian peace-keeping force is the main security guarantor in the region," the president claimed.

There are various opinions on the state of emergency regime in the North Ossetian official quarters and among multinational population of the republic, ranging from its repeal to preservation and extension, provided the temporary administration is transformed and functions of subordinated to it military units are changed.

This issue will be debated by the North Ossetian Parliament next week.

North Ossetians Protest Move Toward Federal Rule

LD2103102394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Yuriy Biragov, chairman of the North Ossetia Supreme Soviet, and Georgiy Kozayev, first deputy chairman of the republican government, have sent a telegram on behalf of the Presidium of the North Ossetia Supreme Soviet to President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko, and State Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin. The telegram states, inter alia, that the proposal made by a number of Russian deputies to introduce federal rule on the territory of North Ossetia has given rise to indignation among the people of the republic. Such proposals are regarded in North Ossetia as an attempt by certain forces—I quote—to play the national card on the Yugoslav model.

Vologda Court Accepts 'Fascist' Description of LDPR

PM2103114594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 2

[Viktor Filippov report: "Court Has Ruled That Comparison With Fascists Does Not Insult Zhirinovskiy's Party"]

[Text] Vologda—A comparison with fascists is not insulting to Zhirinovskiy's party. This conclusion follows from a ruling by Vologda City Court, which has considered an action against Yuriy Nekrasov, "Democratic Russia's" local leader, by the oblast organization of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia].

Soon after the elections of 12 December last year Prof. Yuriy Nekrasov, Doctor of Historical Sciences, published in the newspaper RUSSKIY SEVER an article analyzing the reasons that led to the LDPR's sucess. A specialist in German history, he compared Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's actions with Adolf Hitler's in the Reichstag elections of January 1933 and called the LDPR a profascist political organization.

Vologda Liberal Democrats took out a court action to defend their honor and dignity. They demanded a public apology from Yuriy Nekrasov, as well as a sum of 10 million rubles for the moral harm. Sergey Mormin, coordinator of the LDPR's oblast organization, explained in court that they need this money for propaganda work to restore the party's undermined prestige. Some 29 percent of the voters who went to the ballot boxes voted for Zhirinovskiy's party in the 12 December elections in Vologda Oblast. But the Liberal Democrats have been unable to field a single candidate for the elections to the oblast duma to be held 20 March.

"More than two-thirds of the citizens who supported us in the last elections," Sergey Mormin explained, "have refused to sign documents in favor of our candidates, saying that we are a fascist party."

In the court session Prof. Yuriy Nekrasov, relying on works by U.S. and Italian researchers into fascism, named six generic signs of this political trend and illustrated them convincingly with quotations from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's book and speeches. Evidently finding nothing with which to counter the professor's arguments, Sergey Mormin, the Vologda Liberal Democrats' leader, disowned his own leader, telling the court that Zhirinovskiy's actions are a personal matter for Zhirinovskiy and have no bearing on the activity of the whole party.

After an investigation lasting more than three hours the court rejected the Vologda LDPR organization's action against Prof. Yuriy Nekrasov, chairman of "Democratic Russia's" oblast branch.

Sobchak on City Staff Cuts, Upcoming Petersburg Events

PM2103123794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 2

[Sergey Krayukhin report: "Over 300 City Hall Officials Lose Cushy Jobs"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—A few hours before a press conference in the Smolnyy, Anatoliy Sobchak signed a directive on the formation of the St. Petersburg government.

The subject of the reorganization of the city's executive branch was one of the main subjects in a conversation between the mayor and journalists. Sobchak reported the upcoming considerable reduction in the army of city hall officials which, according to him, was dictated by the low work efficiency of a number of committees, the duplication of their functions, and excessive red tape in solving what are sometimes the most elementary questions. The financial and economic committees will merge, the size of the committee for the administration of city property will be considerably reduced, and the total number of officials threatened with dismissal will reach 340.

The mayor believes that existing privatization legislation facilitates corruption and the transfer of considerable material assets into the hands of mafia-type operators. This is why, Sobchak said, he will make every effort to delay the process of floating enterprises in Petersburg until parliament adopts civilized laws.

Forecasting the composition of the future city assembly, the mayor stressed that he is alarmed by the nomination for deputy of people guilty of sharp practice, forgery, bribery, and other criminal activity and who are now under investigation. Petersburgers, he said, must show their characteristic common sense and vigilance when they put their voting papers into the ballot box.

Answering a question about the possibility that Arkadiy Kramarev, chief of the Petersburg and Oblast Internal Affairs Main Administration, will be removed from his post, Sobchak confirmed that these rumors are groundless. Although it is not for him but the Ministry of Internal Affairs to assess the general's activity, the mayor holds the Internal Affairs Main Administration leadership directly responsible for the extremely unfavorable crime situation in the city.

The journalists were among the first to learn first-hand from the mayor that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has agreed to invest in the construction of a new airport on the banks of the Neva whose cost is estimated at $75 million. This bank intends to make a considerable investment in the reconstruction of St. Petersburg's historic center.

One of the main events in Petersburg's life in the near future will be an international banking congress, which will be unprecedented in the country's entire history in terms of the composition and number of participants. It will bring together around 4,000 bankers and dozens of the biggest Russian and world banks on the banks of the Neva and will last 10 days.

But the main event of the coming summer will undoubtedly be the Goodwill Games. The reconstruction of sports facilities, the mayor assured, is being carried out according to schedule and will be completed on time. As of today 2,000 of the world's leading sportsmen have sent in their applications to participate in the Goodwill Games-94.

Extends Assembly Elections

LD2103132094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Mayor of St. Petersburg Anatoliy Sobchak has extended the elections to the City Assembly, held on March 20, by another 24 hours.

Sobchak did so just 90 minutes before voting was to end, when it became clear that the elections were a failure. According to the city electoral commission, only 21.53

of the electors came to the polling stations (elections will be considered valid if 25

of the electors take part in voting).

The electoral commission believes that a second round of elections must be held. As each seat in the City Assembly is contested by about 15 candidates, it is unlikely that any of them will accrue the required 50

plus 1 vote.

Sobchak has made an amendment in the provision on elections according to which a candidate shall be considered elected during the first round if he receives a majority of the votes irrespective of the number of voters.

Soskovets Promises Financial Aid for Magnitka Combine

PM2103114794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Help for Magnitka"]

[Text] The Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine will be receiving more than 120 billion rubles in state support. This was the result of a Moscow meeting between Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets and representatives of the combine's workers' collectives.

It was noted at the meeting that state support for the Magnitogorsk Combine is needed because modernization of the production facilities there has been halted owing to a shortage of funds.

International Affairs

Kravchuk on Domestic, Foreign Policy

LD2003174994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1220 GMT 20 Mar 94

["Live Dialogue" phone-in program with Ukrainian President Lenid Kravchuk in a live link-up from Kiev, with program host Andrey Skryabov, Mayak commentator Yuliy Semenov and MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI journalist Lyudmila Telen]

[Excerpts] [Skryabin] Hello, esteemed television viewers! Today you and I have a dialogue with Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk, president of the Republic of Ukraine. He is in the television studio in Kiev. Good afternoon Mr. President!

[Kravchuk] Hello!

[Skryabin] We are happy to have you on our program. [passage omitted]

I think that the Institute of Sociological Research, headed by Professor Sokolov, is also taking part in our program today. The fact of the matter is that today we are using sociological research carried out here in Moscow in March and I think it will serve our program well. I would like to say that the sociological research which was carried out was devoted to the theme "Russia and Ukraine—their joint situation—public assessment of information and expectations."

Before putting a question to you, Mr. President, I would like to draw attention to two problems worrying the public in connection with the poll carried out by the Institute of Sociological Research. The first is the lack of information on the situation in Ukraine. In particular, according to the data, more than one-third of all those polled said they lacked information and the majority of those polled—55 percent—think that the Russian mass media are not very objective about life in Ukraine, or simply carries distorted reports about it. I think that our meeting today will allow that problem to be resolved.

And the second problem is the public's great concern about relations between Russia and Ukraine. If you don't mind, Mr. President, I think that we will devote our conversation today to this problem.

Allow me to begin by trying to find out how you regard the stereotypes that exist today in Ukraine and Russia; stereotypes that on the whole are held to be true by people. We would like to know your point of view. Well, the first and main one is connected with the economy.

The fact of the matter is that sociological research showed that the state of Ukraine's economy, especially as far as Muscovites—65 percent—are concerned, is seen as catastrophic, or very serious, while only eight percent think that there is a tendency for it to improve. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] There is no doubt that Ukraine's economic situation is serious. There are no doubts about that. We realize that ourselves, as do the government, the Supreme Council, and the authorities in the localities. But the main question probably is: Is the Ukraine's economy really as bad as its made out to be, and is Ukraine the only state of the former USSR where things are worse than everywhere else? And that lack of information has a good deal to do with that view. I will not give any figures but any unbiased visitor to Ukraine if he visits our shops today, not just in Kiev but in the oblasts, will see that there is a choice of sausage, meat, dairy products, groats, and pasta. Well, prices are another matter. But there is a choice, in the first place. In the second place, these are Ukrainian-produced goods. But if you live nearer Moscow you can visit the squares in front of the city's stations and its markets—which I happen to know very well—you will see an awful lot of Ukrainian products, of foodstuffs there. And I naturally ask the question: Is a poor people, or a people which are hungry, as it is sometimes made out to be, able to fill not just its own shops, but also Russia's markets and the squares in front of its stations.

Therefore, I think this stereotype appeared about a year ago. Yes, indeed, it is true, a year ago, the shelves of the shops in many regions of Ukraine were practically empty because a pricing and subsidy system was not developed. But that question has been taken off the agenda for now. There are two questions now: Prices and wages, but not food products. There are food products. That is why this stereotype is still around and they are still hanging on to it. Therefore, I would say: If there are any doubts here, take the television cameras into our shops and then you can see what things are like, if Ukraine is hungry today or not. That is a short reply.

But there are more profound questions—questions of economic reform, questions of the transition to new economic relations, market reform, financial and credit reform, banking reform. But these questions are all so complex and difficult that they will take time, and these questions of reform are just as complex and difficult for all states of the former Soviet Union, including for Russia, too. Therefore, unless there are some other aims, I think it is simply unjustified to single out Ukraine today.

[Skryabin] Leonid Makarovych, you will, I hope, agree that perhaps the sorest problem both for Ukraine and for Russia is the disruption of economic ties. [passage omitted] What do you think about this situation?

[Kravchuk] One should first answer the question of what ties we are talking about here. If people say that all the ties that formerly existed should be reestablished, this cannot be done, because many enterprises in both Russia and Ukraine that were previously linked with such ties either no longer exist, or have switched to new output, so it is impossible. I advocate strengthening ties, but on a new basis, on new principles.

Let us just take a look at these principles. Who is it who should establish ties—President Yeltsin and President Kravchuk—or the enterprises and collectives themselves? Collectives that have an interest in establishing ties have already got them going—and long since, at that.

Secondly, what should the state do to develop, expand, and strengthen ties? It must create the conditions for that to happen. In Ukraine, for example, we have abolished all customs duties on goods being exported from Ukraine. We have suggested to Russia setting up a free trade zone. Russia has not as yet accepted this. It has opted for most favorable status, but with certain goods exempted, namely gas, oil, nonferrous metals, timber, and some others. So we get a sort of cut-off zone.

For our part, we did not initiate setting up a customs barrier, nor creating any sort of obstacles. Let us be quite frank about this, it is the sorest point at the moment. If we, today, are advocating a single market or a common market within the context of the CIS, then we certainly support that. But for this to come about, conditions have to be equal. If today, for example, the Russian consumer buys oil at 30 percent less than oil costs the Ukrainian consumer, and the same thing applies to gas—how can Ukrainian manufacturers withstand the competition in this common market that it is proposed we should set up? In order to strengthen ties and develop good relations, identical common conditions must be created. Customs policy, taxation policy, pricing policy, and other forms must all be coordinated, just as is done in all civilized countries. But when this is not done because each state pursues its own interests—I am not singling out Ukraine as being the most reticent here, so to speak—if each state pursues its own goals and at the same time chants the slogan, let us join together, then no one has ever managed this before, nor will anyone do so now. That is why I advocate that it should be the collectives who strengthen ties, on the basis of the new situation in their work and life; and that states should create the conditions for it, including by accords between states—Ukraine, incidentally, has signed almost all the documents that have been put forward within the context of the CIS and also in relations between Russia. This removes all the problems and questions. It will neither concern the government nor the president, it will be the concern of the collective that has an interest in the market, the ties, and in ensuring normal payments.

[Semenov] Then why do you occupy such a restrained and cautious position regarding economic union?

[Kravchuk] I will tell you. Economic union should openly specify to the whole people the principles of its development. To demonstrate this, I will touch upon the following issue: a single ruble zone. Russia, as a center of gravity—which is natural—and also as the initiator of setting up a single ruble zone, should say openly what the principles of joining the single ruble zone are. What will the states which will join the single ruble zone lose or win economically, politically, etc.? Moreover, this should be said openly. And then each person would decide whether it will develop as an independent state on the basis on its own currency and relations between states develop in the framework of equality and partnership, or whether there will be a single ruble zone, single currency, single financial and banking system, and then one should forget about independence. The people should not be deceived.

Look at the practice. Why did Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan refuse the single ruble zone? Because a general phrase was written: A single ruble zone. It should be clearly stated: What are the motives of the national bank, or the Russian bank? What are the motives of the Finance Ministry? What has to be given up, what should be gained? Then I will say to my people: Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, this is the option you are being offered—openly and honestly. If you are in favor, then go ahead—with or without me, enter the zone. But when this is done with eyes closed, when they say first you sign and then we specify, the result is that some people enter and then leave. Surely, it is this that has led to such complexities with Belarus—because there is not absolute clarity.

Therefore, I have said before and I am say now: We should define our position, whether we will build an independent state based on the principles of good-neighborliness, friendship and partnership, helping each other, or whether we will unite in a single state with a single ruble, a single bank, single taxation, and single customs. We should ask the people.

At present, I base my opinions on the fact that 92 percent of Ukraine's people voted for independence. One should ask the people: What do you want? We cannot rely on the people and, on the other hand, decide these issues without the people at somebody else's will.

There should be clarity and openness, inter alia regarding Belovezhskaya Pushcha. This is also one of the stereotypes. The Soviet Union did not disintegrate in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. This happened before Belovezhskaya Pushcha. The final decision was not taken in Belovezhskaya Pushcha but in Almaty, in the Almaty Declaration, but nobody admits this. By the way, as for Belovezhskaya Pushcha, not only the presidents, but also the prime ministers signed the documents there. One prefers to forget this because one wants to find who is to blame, but those who are to blame were before the event. Believe me, they were not in Ukraine.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. Leonid Makarovych, speaking about Belovezhskaya Pushcha, if our Ostankino Television prepares a program connected with Belovezhskaya Pushcha within the framework of Live Dialogue, are you prepared to take part in it?

[Kravchuk] Yes, absolutely! Quite a bit of time has passed since the Soviet Union collapsed and since the time of perestroyka and it is time to tell the people how that process developed, who stood on the path of that process, as one of our leaders used to say, and who enabled all that happened to happen. And most importantly, did we have another way out? Was it people's will or was it an objective and natural process? I think that it

was an objective and natural process of disintegration. But were we able to go through that natural process as subjects, in accordance with will and reason, or were mistakes made and who made the mistakes and why? People must be told because myths and illusions around that and the search for guilty parties in the form of several people have gone too far already, and some zealous participants in that process are now making themselves out to be super-internationalists and they pass over in smiling silence their participation in that. I am not accusing anyone. I repeat, that was a natural process and by that disintegration we stopped the whole thing collapsing—that is objectively—but nevertheless, since things have gone so far, people must be told the truth. [passage omitted]

[Telen] Mr. President, I regret having to interrupt that interesting conversation about Belovezhskaya Pushcha, but since we have agreed to make a separate program on it, I will return to the economy, to economics, and politics. You were quite right when you said that the economy is closely linked to politics today and often is based on politics, but as long as the economic situation, in particular, in Ukraine is so serious, there is always the chance that another state, not necessarily Russia, will use economic pressure for political aims. There has been much talk of that in various situations, both with regard to Russia and to Ukraine, in particular, the recent gas situation, with Ukraine's debt to the Russian Gazprom. [passage omitted] What do you think? Can Russia use economic sanctions for political ends? Is that a reality? And do you see such a danger for Ukraine?

[Kravchuk] There are a number of complex aspects for me. The first is that gas and oil must be paid for. And in Ukraine today, the following situation has taken shape: Since we have no real possibilities of accumulating hard currency because Russia does not buy in great quantities the goods that are being sold to it. I am speaking about Russian enterprises. For instance, a Russian enterprise can wait to buy a KRAZ [truck made at the Kremenchug automobile works] for a six months or a year, whereas gas is an everyday necessity. In other words, we cannot accumulate hard currency in selling our goods to Russia today. There are no quotas on the European market. So we have a product, but we cannot sell it and accumulate hard currency. Therefore, it is not possible to pay for gas and oil in a timely manner. What can I say if there are not any payments? The tap can always be turned off. That can always be dished up as pressure, anything you like, and the following explanation can be given: You are not paying, we are not supplying you. Therefore, there is a problem here, and we are now making every effort to mobilize forces, reserves, resources, or by other means, to accumulate hard currency and to settle with Gazprom. But I have a question, too. The gas could have been turned off on 26 February. There were no payments there either, but for some reason it was turned off on 3 March while I was in the United States. I cannot explain why it happened like that—for it is probably no coincidence, people say. That is the question! Some are always exploiting the time, political, or economic factors to create problems around it. I think we will find a solution—there is no doubt—and relations will be normal, payments will be normal. Ukraine is not a poor state. It will settle up. Incidentally, we owe everyone today—we owe the West—and the West deferred loan and interest payments. When normal interests and the prospect for relations are taking into account, all factors are taken into account and the main factor is our future, our good relations with our neighbor, with people with whom we lived for 340 years together with one territorial integrity, lived in the Soviet Union, shared sorrows and difficulties and good times. Therefore, I would refrain from having only mercantile relations now or taking advantages of difficulties with Ukraine. Ukraine will not be a debtor. It will settle up—if not today, then tomorrow.

[Semenov] Leonid Makarovych, there is another moral and political aspect. Is Ukraine in a position to guarantee fully that Russian gas and oil reach Europe? You know there have been some unpleasant situations.

[Kravchuk] The position is this. We have now set up a working group, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk, which together with local administrations has placed the passage of gas and oil under the strictest supervision. We believe that this is absolutely unacceptable, and believe me, I am convinced of that. If anyone is doing this, or does it in the future, he will be called to account.

[Semenov] [Passage omitted] Recently a sort of diplomatic, perhaps friendly or unfriendly triangle has become established, namely Russia, Ukraine, and the United States. What is the role of the United States here, in your view? Is it serving to reconcile us, to remind us of our old friendship, or will we perhaps feel ashamed in front of the United States and come to agreement without its help?

[Skryabin] Well, if I can approach this from another angle, it has been said that America is our new friend. Is this not in some way the loss of our old friend Russia?

[Kravchuk, laughing] Well, I reckon it is like this: The fact is that we have all been brought up on a specific sort of ideology, an ideology that declared all bourgeois, capitalist countries to be our enemies. Now, of course, even some friends are difficult to interpret, But I think the more friends the better. In any case, I am convinced that America will lay no claims to Ukraine, whether territorial or any other. The fact that we are establishing ties with the United States, France, or Great Britain does not mean this is detrimental to Russia.

I have said before and I am saying now: our relations with Russia have a special status. These are relations of partnership, friendship, and good-neighborliness. There is no other way for Ukraine or Russia. Historically and objectively and, if you prefer it, subjectively, this friendship is at the level of everyday life. If, for example, we are talking of friendship with the United States at the level of government structures, at state level, here it is at the

level of people, border areas and families who have friends and relatives or children. It became integrated at the level of everyday life.

I can see that Russia seems to be jealous, as if the fact that Ukraine is making friends and establishing good relations with others will be at Russia's expense. I even like this. It looks as if Russians love Ukrainians very much and they do not want to let them go because of their friendly feelings.

But I would like to see one thing: so that this love should be expressed in some concrete steps with regard to Ukraine—in providing aid in the economic reform and in the reform of the political system. In mitigating those harsh processes that are under way in our country, inevitable as they are. In solving calmly and equitably the problems of nuclear weapons, of the Black Sea fleet, and everything connected with these. If this love, these good relations, are expressed in such concrete steps, then this love can only be to the benefit of us alive today, and of those who will be living tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, for we have to live on the same planet, live and be friends, as the saying goes, and we cannot avoid that. There is no other option, no alternative. Only hotheads can think otherwise. Those Russian Federation citizens who often brand the official authority, including the president, as virtually nationalist, because he pursues this policy, should reflect.

This, too, is a stereotype of the same ideology. If somebody speaks in favor of an independent state, nothing more is required. If he is in favor of independent Ukraine he is a nationalist but if he is against independent Ukraine he is an internationalist and is most welcome, that is the point. But then the following question could be asked: If a Russian speaks in favor of independent Russia who is he? This question is somehow avoided. We should not, therefore, be guided by stereotypes in our life. We have risen to a new plane, new philosophy, new ideology, and we should rid ourselves gradually, step by step, of nationalism, chauvinism, or national-patriotism which, I am convinced, can only lead to confrontation, not to good relations.

[Semenov] But for love to blossom it should be reciprocal, Leonid Makarovych, do you agree?

[Kravchuk] Certainly. I cannot, therefore, give you any example saying that there is no reciprocal love on the Ukrainian part. When the Russian Supreme Soviet, contrary to common sense, adopts a decision on the status of Sevastopol and sends its people to the Crimea to stir up separatist moods, believe me, Ukraine is not sending anyone to Rostov or Tatarstan or other republics to create difficulties there. And now tell me who loves whom reciprocally: the one who wants to interfere in the other's territorial affairs—and I find this very difficult to explain—or the one who bends. Or do you want us to bend over backward? One should understand that a person has a limit, he has honor which is above all, beyond which economic and other problems become of secondary importance. It is how people are.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. Leonid Makarovych, I would like to refer to the findings of the Institute of Sociological Research of Professor Sokolov again. It also is about stereotypes. The majority of Muscovites who were polled in the survey are very negative about your political course. Fifty-six percent think that you follow a policy of isolation and separatism and are a Ukrainian nationalist.

[Kravchuk, laughing] Well, what did I say!

[Skryabin] But I think that Yevgeniy Andreyvich (Ushakov) from Moscow is right when he says that he hopes there are people in the leadership of Ukraine today who are as wise as Bogdan Khmelnitskiy [17th century Ukrainian leader], who understand that only a close union between the people of Russia and Ukraine, a union without ambition, will bring calm and prosperity to these peoples.

[Kravchuk] I completely agree. But there is just one thing. The nature of that union must be determined. You know there are calls at the moment in our country—the pre-election campaign is underway—some say we are for union with Russia, for the creation of a single credit and banking system, for the creation of a single monetary system. Down with the frontiers! Down with the customs! Down with everything! But we say: For an independent and self- sufficient Ukraine. I want to ask: Is this logical and do these actions and ideas go together? Therefore, there is no need to deceive the people! I said that right at the outset. Let us determine what the economic union will be like, what the ruble zone, the nonruble zone will be like, let us tell the people and then let the people decide what it should give back and what it should take. But to simply make declarations will bring only confrontation.

I was and will be a supporter of friendship, neighborliness, and partnership with Russia not because it is my particular opinion but because this is what history dictates. That is the crux of the matter. But let us channel everything else not dictated by history into a civilized framework, along the lines of good relations, mutual understanding, partnership, equality, and then all the problems will disappear. Believe me, if somebody wants to dictate and somebody else is to be subordinate, the problems will not go away.

[Telen] Mr. President, then let us go on to the problem of elections. We know that Ukraine has embarked upon the final part of the pre-election campaign—I mean parliamentary elections. The presidential elections are ahead and...

[Skryabin, interrupting] And the local soviet elections...

[Telen, continues] And the local soviet elections, too. Relations between Ukraine and Russia are one of the central questions of the pre-election campaign. But I

would like to ask you about something else. It is known that around 70 percent of the electorate intend to take part in the first round of the parliamentary elections—that is quite a big figure—but according to forecasts by many Ukrainian specialists, the matter will not be decided at the first round of voting, since there are too many candidates for every deputy's seat and it is quite likely that parliament will not be elected at these elections. Tell us please, how do you forecast the situation if parliament is not elected as a result of the first and second round of voting? What will the situation in Ukraine be like?

[Kravchuk] I would like parliament to be elected, that is the first thing, and that wise, calm and professionally trained politicians, people capable of resolving domestic and external problems in line with international principles and the interests of their people enter parliament. This is my profound wish and conviction. There are really around over 5,000 candidates for 450 seats. That works out about 12 people per constituency. It is unlikely that this problem will be resolved in the first round. The second round is more difficult from the legal point of view: 50 percent turnout is required and over 25 percent are required to vote.

There will be difficulties. But if parliament is not elected, a parliamentary crisis could arise because some deputies will be elected and it cannot be ruled out that one deputy could hold a seat in an old constituency, another in a new constituency and it will be difficult to manage that situation. But elections to local bodies of power and presidential elections in June still lie ahead. Unless all of that is decided in March or April, I fear that a power vacuum could be formed and then we will have to take some kind of extraordinary decisions. I think we will be able to decide that problem within the framework of democracy, within the framework of the interests of the state so as not to bury the state, not to allow executive structures of power to disintegrate. We have bodies of power in the localities, there are presidential structures, there are local soviets. I think that we can and will be able to run the state with the help of these structures, having decided the question here in the center in accordance in the interests of both the people and the state.

[Telen] Mr. President, can presidential elections be postponed given the complicated situation?

[Kravchuk] Well, you see, I would not like to initiate this because some people could view this as my desire to put off elections. It was me who proposed early elections of both parliament and president. But today, according to my information from localities and leaders of different ranks and the letters and telegrams that keep arriving, first, time limits are very compressed, second, it will be summer, harvesting will be underway. And then, people say that if the parliament issue is not settled, if the parliament fails to adopt two important laws, on local power structures and their functions, plenary powers and interaction with the central authorities, and if a new law on presidency is not adopted—because the current law defines the president as head of state and executive authority and also defines relevant functions and plenary powers—then the elections can be not simply inexpedient but even dangerous to a degree because a power vacuum will set in. The central bodies of authorities will have no influence over local bodies of authority, because there will be no law to regulate these relations. So people notice this, they are worried and are asking to postpone these elections until these two laws are adopted and to hold the elections at a more convenient time. Well, I cannot solve this problem on my own.

[Skryabin] Incidentally, Leonid Makarovych, your view fits in with those of our viewers. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] Yes, there is concern, I feel it, too, in telegrams, letters, or telephone calls that are received not only by my office but by other structures, too, including the Cabinet of Ministers and the Supreme Council. In other words, the people are alarmed. But since there is alarm and uncertainty, which is undeniable, all this should be solved in such a way that the management of the state, the state itself, and its independence do not suffer in the process. [passage omitted]

[Semenov] I know that preventing any form of bloodshed in Ukraine is your political priority. At the same time, you have declared the holding of referendum in Crimea illegal. It will, however, be held, most probably. What actions can you take? I can hardly imagine.

[Kravchuk] You see, here we have the following problem. I agree with Andrey Georgiyevich [Skryabin] that if we start arguing today about who owns Crimea this argument will be very difficult to bring to a logical conclusion. It depends on what period, time span, or historical period you examine. I would not raise this issue at all. The way I formulate the question is the following: Do we need today, considering the difficulties that have arisen within the CIS framework and the difficulties related to the former Soviet Union—do we need to raise the issue of solving the Crimean problem? My answer is an unequivocal no, if we are to be guided by common sense and political expediency and consider the dangers that lie in wait for us along this road. This is my profound conviction.

Second, after the president of Crimea was elected, our first meeting in Ukraine was interesting. The president did not ask a single political question.

He [Meshkov] said: The main issue for me is the economic program. After this, I gave instructions to the government, and we created for Crimea, together with Crimea, a budget balancing expenditure if the Crimean authorities ensure the revenue. In addition, we added a specific sum for the Crimean Tatar people as was done in all our budgets. So, the main issue of the budget was removed from the agenda.

Now we need to work. And here I ask myself the question: Should one tackle the economic issue or kindle the political problems again? Such as: Are you in favor of

dual citizenship? Is it not understood that the majority of the population is in favor of dual citizenship in Crimea? Are not the other questions asked in the poll understood? But the main issue is the competence of the all-Ukraine referendum and not the Crimean referendum: This is, in accordance with Ukraine's Constitution and with the law on the all-Ukraine local referendum, the competence of Ukraine. That is, no part can resolve this problem unless it expresses the will of the entire people.

That is the first thing. The second thing is that there is a ratified international principle, the Helsinki Process, which takes very seriously all problems related to territorial borders and others, because they understand that confrontation is in store here, there may be blood in store here. Therefore, I could not but annul these two points in the Crimean president's decree, because they contradict the Constitution and our laws. The point that relates to the competence of Crimea remains.

So, conditions have been created today for Crimea to work economically and resolve its problems. What conditions are these? Inadequate in respect of the opportunities, indeed, difficult and hard ones, yes indeed, but we have to work. I can imagine what will happen after this referendum. It has absolutely no juridical force whatsoever, but I can well imagine how many of your Ostankino broadcasts there will be, not to say from your editorial office: The Crimeans have expressed their will, and so on and so forth. This is all politicizing, whipping up passions, the newspapers will go on about it, there will all sorts of rallies, everything to show what the Crimeans want. But can what the Crimeans want today be settled without the involvement of Ukraine and Russia? In keeping with the Helsinki and UN norms and other principles, two conditions are essential: First, the agreement of Ukraine and of Russia. Third, the expression of the people's will. Or rather second, the expression of the people's will. But those conditions are not present, all these expressions of the will of part of the people will constantly come up against the barriers of international principles, territorial borders etc., and so on and so forth. Can we really set out on this path today?

This is why I have been appealing and continue to appeal: There should be an end to politicizing, exploitation, and playing the Crimean card. It will not lead to anything good. We have the experience of the Dniester Region and Karabakh. Surely we do not need a few more trouble spots for the hotheads to finally understand that they must stop. Because we are already tired of receiving death notifications. How many of these must there be?

[Skryabin] Leonid Makarovych, thank you, I am sorry but we have already run over our airtime, I cannot even offer you time to bid farewell. [passage omitted]

Perry's Comments, Visit to 'Classified Site' Noted

WS2103102194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry arrived in Kiev yesterday on a two-day official visit. I have three tasks to fulfill during my visit to Ukraine, stated U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry at Borispol airport. The first task is to strengthen and renew relations with our old friends; second, is to continue working with the Ukrainian Government and the Defense Ministry to step up the implementation of the very important trilateral Ukrainian-Russian-U.S. agreement signed by Presidents Leonid Kravchuk, Boris Yeltsin, and Bill Clinton in Moscow in January of this year; and my third task will be to cooperate with the Ukrainian Government within the framework of the program of economic development and conversion of military industrial enterprises.

The U.S. delegation is planning to visit Pervomaysk and acquaint itself with how a variety of programs on dismantling nuclear weapons according to the Moscow trilateral agreement are being implemented. After that, Secretary Perry will visit a classified site in Dnepropetrovsk, the biggest production complex specializing in missile equipment production. For the first time in the history of such enterprises, the Pentagon chief later emphasized, a U.S. secretary of defense will have the opportunity to personally observe operations at one of these sites.

Navy Accuses Black Sea Fleet of Unauthorized Movement

LD1803161794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] The command of the Ukrainian Navy insists on the obligatory coordination with it of the movement of Black Sea naval ships and units. However, the Russian command refuses to meet the demand, a senior spokesman for the Ukrainian naval command told INTERFAX-Ukraine.

He described as provocative another refusal by the naval command to inform the Ukrainian defense ministry of the warships putting to sea.

INTERFAX earlier reported that on 17 March, 25 warships, two submarines and five auxiliary ships put to sea for training purposes.

The spokesman said that the Ukrainian Defense Ministry will force the command to comply with Ukrainian laws.

Sources close to the Ukrainian naval staff have told INTERFAX-Ukraine that on 17 March one Ukrainian warship set out to sea.

Commenting on the statement by the Ukrainian Navy senior spokesman, Andrey Grachev, the acting chief of

the Fleet's press center, said that "it is not command actions but such statements that are provocative."

Firstly, in line with Ukrainian and Crimean laws on troop movement "we must warn the Crimean parliament and its speaker and this we did."

Secondly, the Fleet commander, Admiral Baltin, in a telegram to Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy, warned him back in February that ships were planned to put to sea in March 1994, and this was done too, said Grachev.

Speaking about one of the four ships of the Ukrainain Navy putting to sea, Andrey Grachev voiced the hope that it would return safely to the base.

Majlis Chairman: Meshkov Not President for Crimean Tatars

LD2003104494 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0830 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Sevastopol, 19 Mar—Mustafa Dzhamilev, chairman of the Majlis of the Crimean-Tatar people granted an interview to the newspaper FLOT UKRAYINYY [FLEET OF UKRAINE]. He said in particular, that "Yuriy Meshkov is not a president today for the Crimean Tatar people," because his program envisages a revision of the existing borders. The chairman of the Majlis said that "of all the states of the former union, Ukraine is the only country today that renders the most effective assistance to us. We are well aware of how complicated the current economic situation in the country is and therefore we are not putting forward any particular claims."

Replying to the question: "Is Russia extending any help to you," Dzhamilev said: "We do not receive any practical assistance from Russia, however, we should not forget that in the years when our people were subject to deportation, Crimea was under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, and we hope to intensify all-around methods of influencing Moscow, which bears the bulk of responsibility for the genocide of the Crimean Tatars. We will strive to achieve that Moscow finance the process of the repatriation, rehabilitation [of the Crimean Tatars], and compensation for the losses inflicted on our people."

Replying to the questions "how does he assess the statement by President Yuriy Meshkov to the effect that Ukraine should pull its troops out of the territory of the peninsula, and does the Black Sea Fleet ensure Crimea's security," Dzhamilev said: "This is an irresponsible and provocative statement... the Black Sea Fleet issue should be solved quicker and the stationing of the foreign state's ships near our shores is one of the elements that destabilizes the political situation in Crimea."

More on Nixon Meeting With Kravchuk

PM1803152794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by UNIAN's Mariya Starozhitskaya: "Nixon Called Kravchuk One of the World's Best Strategists"]

[Text] Kiev—After being in Kiev for four hours ex-U.S. President Richard Nixon said of President Leonid Kravchuk: "I have always said, and I repeat, that he is one of the world's best strategists, who accords with Ukraine's interests and understands problems on a global scale."

"I spent approximately a week in Russia—everyone knows that after the elections, its position with regard to Ukraine and other neighbors became more tough and aggressive," Nixon said. "I do not mean that the majority of the leaders in Russia now support the position of Zhirinovskiy and others, but in the future, there could certainly be precedents when the [United] States will have to choose whether to look to Russia or Ukraine.

"Here I will express my personal opinion: Both the United States and the Ukrainian people must be interested in Russia's economic and political progress. If economic conditions improve in Russia, this will mean a worsening of the positions of extremist forces such as Zhirinovskiy, who pursues an aggressive policy toward Ukraine. Russia is a great state, but it is not in its best interest to bite off more than it can chew: It has quite enough domestic problems, and I consider economic imperialism just as unacceptable as military imperialism."

Leonid Kravchuk pointed out that Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has twice violated Ukrainian legislation with his edict on holding a referendum.

"It is not a normal democratic and peaceful process to start one's activity by violating the law and the constitution," Kravchuk said. "If President Meshkov resorts to a confrontation, this will be on his conscience."

Richard Nixon added that he considers the 19th-century Crimean War the most stupid war in history. One such war is quite sufficient.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Says Meshkov 'Has Exceeded His Powers'

LD2003204494 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 20 Mar 94

["Excerpt" of Interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Krachuk by unidentified correspondent on 20 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk was interviewed today by Ukrainian television. The conversation focussed on election issues and relations

between central executive power bodies and the local executive power in the autonomous Republic of Crimea.

[Correspondent] Crimea's top executive, President Yuriy Meshkov, plans to conduct a poll on 27 March. There has been a lot of talk about this poll on the air....

[Kravchuk, interrupting] I talked about it, too.

[Correspondent] And about your decree that abolished some of its premises. But a lot will depend on, and I quote the U.S. embassy press statement, Kiev's considerable self-control. Does Kiev have that considerable self-control, Leonid Makarovych?

[Kravchuk] Of course it does, because, first of all, this self-control needs to be understood in the way that we are acting in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of Ukraine. It is very important. Whereas the president of Crimea has exceeded his powers, that is, has ignored the law, both the Ukrainian one and his own, the president of Ukraine is acting clearly within the framework of the law. Thus, if you put both of these documents [the two presidents' decrees] on the table, then you will see that we are acting clearly in accordance with the law, while the president of Crimea has violated the norms of both Ukraine's and his own law. And that is dangerous. Our self-control shows in the fact that we are staying always within the law. The Crimean president's lack of self-control in this case shows in the fact that he wants to break the law, and he is breaking it. I already said this, and I want to say once again that the main thing that needs to be done in Crimea today is to solve economic problems.

[Announcer] That was an excerpt from an interview with President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk. You can see it in full today, at 2200 in the television program "Without Protocol."

Crimean President Issues Decree on 27 March Poll

LD1803212394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov issued a decree today on organizing and holding a poll among Crimea's citizens on 27 March of this year, INTERFAX reported. Yuriy Meshkov approved the form for the poll.

The document prescribes that Crimea's population will be polled on the following issues:

—On their attitude to dual citizenship;
—On the Crimeans' positions regarding the interrelation between Kiev and Simferopol on the basis of agreements and treaties; and also
—On granting Crimea's president the right to issue decrees that have force of law on issues that are not regulated by Crimean legislation. [passage omitted]

Election Decree Rejection Justified

944K0888A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 1

[Interview with V. Alsufyev, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Crimea, by N. Gavrileva, under the rubric "Let Us Be Specific": "Proceeding Toward the Elections. Why Was the Edict Not Accepted for Execution?"]

[Text] Yesterday KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA published the Decree of the Central Electoral Commission "On the Edict of the President of the Republic of Crimea 'On Holding a Poll of Republic of Crimea Citizens.'" We asked V. Alsufyev, chairman of the commission, to comment on the situation.

[Gavrileva] Viktor Vladimirovich, in its decree the Central Electoral Commission actually refused to execute this edict of the president. Please explain to us the reason for the appearance of the decree; after all, this is direct disobedience of the authority of the president!

[Alsufyev] This has to do with the fact that the edict of the president faced the Central Electoral Commission with a choice between accepting the demand to violate the law and incurring the displeasure of the president's team. Despite the fact that a great variety of political forces are represented on our commission, the decision was made unanimously—to stick to the position of the law.

Please note Point 4 of the edict in which the president obligated the Central Electoral Commission to conduct the poll simultaneously with the elections. However, the point is that the Central Electoral Commission is not by any means subordinated to the executive authorities in some way, and a demand, even by the president, does not and cannot entail legal consequences in the form of its execution. Since in keeping with the law the commission is the supreme institution for organizing and holding elections of deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea, the commission reports solely to the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea, and only on the basis of its decision does the commission have the legal authority to take measures that do not fall within its jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the edict provides for appointing "representatives of the president" to electoral commissions. This amounts to a direct violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea and electoral legislation. Had this happened, it would have been grounds to consider the election of deputies invalid.

Therefore, it is not some kind of disobedience to the supreme official that is at issue but rather the need to take measures to uphold the law.

Believe me, the commission has no dearth of problems other than becoming involved in a conflict with the presidential authority. The Crimea is now holding elections which are without parallel in history in terms of

complexity. While it is the Central Electoral Commission with regard to 66 single-seat electoral districts, our commission at the same time exercises the powers of a district commission in the multiple-seat electoral district in which the Crimea elects deputies under the proportional system from four political parties and one electoral bloc. At the same time, our commission must operate in the mode of five district electoral commissions for national electoral districts. The lot of district commissions is even more difficult: They also are commissions for elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine at the same time.

[Gavrileva] Pardon me, but a document such as this edict could not have appeared without prior coordination with the Central Electoral Commission. Where were you before?

[Alsufyev] The edict came as a complete surprise to us. We saw the text as late as 11 March in the newspapers. I think that a realistic scenario for solving the emergent problem which would comply with legal norms would have been quite possible. The Central Electoral Commission always provides the necessary consultative assistance benevolently. We use professional lawyers from the Ministry of Justice of the Crimea and the state law department of the Supreme Soviet for such efforts. If necessary, we verify our decisions with the prosecutor's office and the Supreme Court of the Crimea, that is to say, we do everything possible to strictly uphold the law. However, in this case, a consultation with us was apparently not needed.

[Gavrileva] Incidentally, on the day the edict was published, readers called our editorial office requesting that the meaning of some of provisions be clarified. Perhaps the period of 16 days is too short, after all: It turns out that the voter (that is, the citizen taking part in the poll) is being deliberately faced with a situation in which he is simply deprived of an opportunity to grasp the essence of the questions and to make a determination concerning his choice....

[Alsufyev] You are right. I would like to not assess the edict from the standpoint of the content of the questions. However, the time factor is very significant indeed. You will agree that it is necessary to be in possession of a certain volume of legal information in order to respond to each question intelligently. Time is needed to this end, and a lot of it.

At present, space in newspapers and air time are the main point: The mass media are overburdened with articles related to elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea and the Supreme Council of Ukraine to begin with. We have received a great many complaints from candidates for deputy about the absence of an opportunity to use the mass media because of the superimposition of the two election campaigns. And what if we also include the poll, with its complex questions?

You will agree that there is indeed no real opportunity to ensure a deliberate choice and a free expression of the will of citizens within this period of time.

[Gavrileva] Indeed, technically it is very difficult to do this on 27 March. What is to be done next?

[Alsufyev] There is only one way out: The president should correlate his intentions with the requirements of the law.

Crimean Communists Election Appeal

944K0887A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 2

["Election Appeal of the Republic Committee of the Communist Party to All Communists and Their Supporters and the Electorate of Our Republic"]

[Text] Esteemed Crimeans!

The political and economic situation in Crimea remains serious and unpredictable after the presidential elections also.

The results of socioeconomic development of 1993 have borne out the gloomiest forecasts. They have made it possible to see that a number of political leaders have for the sake of their own ambitions reduced the people to indigence and humiliation. The main political slogan with which the Communists are going into the elections is labor, the power of the people, and justice. We call on all to unite around these principles.

I. Political Situation in Crimea

Under the influence of the forces that still really dispose of power the creation of new political parties and their hurried registration have been artificially accelerated in the Republic. The intention of the sponsors of this campaign is to camouflage the representatives of the "power party" and get them elected to the Supreme Soviet and pilfer the votes of the electorate from parties which already have their own political character. To this end there has been the nomination in all head-to-head constituencies of numerous so-called "independent" candidates and also the mass nomination of candidates occupying the most important positions in the power structures. All this is geared to a conclusive change of sociopolitical system.

Confirming its statutory and program positions as a party expressing the interests of the working class, peasantry, and intelligentsia and all working people and the positions of internationalism and patriotism, the Republic committee of the Communist Party of Crimea sees the actions of the organizers of the "new" parties as a manifest aspiration to split both the workers movement and all patriotic forces in Crimea, disconnect our society, counterpose town to country, the agricultural laborer to the plant worker, and the youth to the elderly, and to artificially embroil people of different social groups.

II. Main Goals of the Communist Party of Crimea

The main goal set by candidates from the Communist Party is the restoration and realization of social safeguards. The great state in which our peoples lived prior to the Belovezha conspiracy was not, of course, devoid of shortcomings. The political and economic structure was in need of serious improvement, but instead of the gradual reform and strengthening of the system of the organs of the power of the people—the soviets—and a smooth transition to the new principles of economic policy, indiscriminate processes which signified the disarticulation of the Soviet Union and the profound crisis of the national economy gained the ascendancy. The Communist Party of Crimea links, therefore, the possibility of the achievement in full of its main goal—the realization of social safeguards—with the restoration of a unified state based on common borders, customs, credit system, and monetary unit and the creation of the corresponding organs of administration. The form of state arrangement of this voluntary union of the peoples (federation, confederation) should be determined at a referendum.

III. Place and role of the Republic of Crimea

History no longer allows of the possibility of tarrying over the adoption of a decision, this is today a matter of life and death! The political and economic crisis in Ukraine is intensifying increasingly, and Crimea must realize its right to the independent determination of economic priorities. It is essential primarily to surmount the spiral of hyperinflation, and this is only possible within the framework of the closest alliance with Russia and the other republics. For Ukraine this should be a powerful motivating factor of the closest economic integration in an alliance with Russia and the other republics.

This would be a first step toward a new, unified state, in whose restoration the Republic of Crimea is destined to perform its particular historical role.

IV. Stabilization of the Living Standard of Society and Restoration of Social Safeguards

In view of the urgent need for a halt to the continued fall in the living standard of the majority of the population below the poverty line and the threat of starvation, the Communists will seek persistently in the Supreme Soviet of Crimea the adoption of a law on the building of a state system of social protection of the populace on the principle of the conformity of pay, pensions, and grants to the actual subsistence minimum.

The Communist deputies will demand of the executive specific measures geared to the fight against unemployment and the creation of new jobs, the introduction of government subsidies for fixing the price of bread and milk, free health care and education, higher education included, and the accessibility to each family of children's establishments, and so forth and will also oppose all attempts to further deprive the people of social safeguards.

V. Ways of Accomplishing the Tasks Set in the Election Platform of the Communist Party of Crimea

The economic basis throughout the period of restoration should be a multistructural economy with the retention of the leading role of public property and state regulation of production. State regulation should provide for the extrication of the national economy from the severe economic crisis, and its multistructural character is a step toward the achievement of social harmony, of which we are in such need today, on the basis of a particular concurrence of the interests of the broadest strata of society: from the worker and employee through the national entrepreneur. A fundamental change in tax and credit policy for the purpose of stimulation of the producer of any form of ownership (private included) by way of concessionary taxation and lending with a simultaneous expansion of the tax and investment field, the establishment of government subsidies to agriculture and the elimination of the "price scissors" in respect to agricultural and industrial products, and furtherance of the development of both the kolkhozes and sovkhozes and tenant and private farms are necessary.

We will simultaneously conduct a merciless struggle against crime, corruption, and parasitic profiteering and oppose the introduction of the private ownership of land, which is the main wealth of Crimea and must not become a subject of speculation. The land and its resources are public property. It may be transferred, on a long-term and indefinite basis even, with transfer by inheritance, but without the right to buy and sell.

We will ensure effective state supervision of the activity of enterprises of all forms of ownership and restore renewed people's control.

The Communist Party is prepared to submit such a package of laws for consideration by the Supreme Soviet of Crimea.

Only the restoration of common statehood and an upturn of production will enable us to stabilize the economy, restore a decent living standard of the people, and secure acceptable starting conditions for the implementation of real reforms.

We have prepared and sent to the president of the Republic a "100 days" program, which is geared to the accomplishment of the priority tasks and which does not require big capital outlays.

VI. Strengthening the Power of the People

As a guarantee of the preservation and strengthening of the state status of Crimea and the exclusion of the

establishment of an authoritarian dictatorship, we see as the main task the broadening of the sovereignty of the soviets of all levels.

The chairmen of the city and rayon soviets should be elected directly by the public of the corresponding cities and rayons.

Consulting the people via a referendum should be the cardinal path of a solution of all strategic questions of the Republic's socioeconomic development.

Esteemed fellow citizens!

On 16 and 30 January 1994 you demonstrated high political maturity and expressed by your vote total lack of confidence in the power party.

But this political force remains a real obstacle in the way of the accomplishment of real social transformations in the interests of a majority of the people inasmuch as it has a majority in the Supreme Soviet and holds the key positions in the Council of Ministers of our republic.

For this reason we cannot allow to hold the mandates of deputies the representatives of that same power party, beneath whatever flags they have conducted their election campaign and in whatever "democratic" clothing they have garbed themselves.

Yours must be a deliberate choice!

New Pro-Russian Bloc Founded in Crimea

LD2003103494 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0930 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The political bloc "Sevastopol-Crimea-Russia," which has been founded in Sevastopol, is in favor of Crimea's close political and economic unity with Russia, and has as its slogan "Our homeland is Russia" [Nasha rodina—Rossiya]. Aleksandr Kruglov, a Crimean people's deputy, who has been elected the leader of the new association, told a RIA correspondent this by phone. According to Kruglov, the "Sevastopol-Crimea-Russia" bloc supports the Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and his decree on holding a referendum on the Republic of Crimea's independence among the peninsula's population on 27 March.

Crimea's Saburov Outlines Needed Economic Steps

944K0889A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by V. Savchenko: "Poetry and Prose of Economics"]

[Text] It is not everyone who experiences in one day as many changes, significant ones at that, as have occurred for Yevgeniy Fedorovich Saburov. On Friday 11 March the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Crimea appointed him vice premier of the Crimean Government.

Saburov's citizenship was simultaneously an issue at the session. N.V. Bagrov conveyed to the deputies the words of the representative of the president of Ukraine to the effect that he had no objection to Saburov's appointment to the office of vice prime minister of the Government of Crimea, but after [line missing] Ukraine. However, the deputies voted for the wording of Yu.A. Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea, in accordance with which Saburov will petition L.M. Kravchuk to be admitted to citizenship of Ukraine following his appointment to office.

Ye.F. Saburov held a news conference this day also. True, it had to be broken off after just a few minutes, and for a most serious reason. Journalists witnessed Yevgeniy Saburov writing the application requesting that he be granted citizenship of the state of Ukraine in connection with his appointment to the office of vice prime minister of the Government of the Republic of Crimea.

Saburov spent two hours altogether initially telling the session of his vision of the situation concerning reform of the economy of Crimea and then answering the questions of the deputies and, in conclusion, of journalists.

We have to yet fully recognize that a prominent economist who has held important positions in the Government of Russia and who has as of late been head of the Information and Social Technology Center under the auspices of the Government of the Russian Federation has become vice prime minster of the government. Now Ye.F. Saburov will have an opportunity to test his theoretical efforts in practice.

"I believe that Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, who said that it is impossible to work with a prompter, is right. If you are going to do something, you should do it yourself because your proposals become distorted to such an extent and are introduced so maladroitly that you are subsequently yourself ashamed of what you proposed."

Saburov is of a mind to change the "sinking ship" situation and to begin economic reforms. What does he need for this? Primarily, as he observed, a favorable political climate, but the situation in the Republic is complex and it could be a serious obstacle

Second, serious changes in legislation are needed—and not only this. Unless the legislative base keeps pace with the progress of the reforms, there will be breakdowns continually. Rule by decree was introduced in Russia to this end. The president of Crimea should have this right also.

And, third, the existence of a program worked out in detail down to the level: do this first, then do this. Thanks to the fact that it has been possible to enlist professional personnel, such a program will be put to the verdict of the inhabitants of Crimea in the very near future.

There is great experience of the generation of programs in the Council of Ministers of Crimea also. Sixteen have been compiled, but they have simply not been introduced. As a result Crimea is reminiscent in terms of reform of the Russia of 1990-91. But on the other hand,this is, perhaps, good inasmuch as negative experience may be avoided. Of course, there would be greater confidence in the programs had the reforms produced results and improved people's lives on if only one territory of the former space of the Union.

To what extent does Crimea need ties to Russia? Saburov answered this question at the session twice, but a lady journalist from Canada put it more sharply:

"Many people regard your appointment merely as an attachment to Russia. What do you think?"

"The severance of ties to Russia has been quite tragic for the economy of Crimea. It is structured such as to be oriented toward sale of the product of goods and services. It is a question, therefore, not of some political convergence with Russia, but of the normal economic life of Crimea and the settlement of financial relations. Democratic countries should treat the express say of the people of Crimea with understanding and not seek in this an argument for confrontation and tension."

"But it is said that Crimea cannot live without Ukraine either?" was a question put by a Ukrainian journalist.

"There is the question of dependence and there is the question of orientation. When it is a question of a close connection with Ukraine, this is true, and it is, indeed, impossible for Crimea to be a 'Crimean Island,' however good Aksenov's similarly entitled book may be. Both the North Crimean Canal and questions of power engineering are closely connected with Ukraine. As far as orientation is concerned, the industrial product should be sold in Russia, and the agricultural product geared to the north. Recreation is oriented toward Russia also.

"In the severance of ties between Russia and Ukraine the former is no less to blame than Ukraine, and the inhabitants of Crimea do not understand this, unfortunately."

"There will be no miracle," Saburov uttered these words more than once during his meetings in the two different auditoriums, and they applied mainly to the hopes linked with Russia. Thus, there is no point expecting lines of credit of the Central Bank of Russia. Saburov's team is attempting settle this question, but a great deal of difficult work has to be done.

Where are the most painful spots in Crimea, what will be the starting point for the work?

Saburov believes that it is necessary first of all to change the status of the Central Bank of Crimea. It must have the right if only to register foreign banks. In this case banking in Crimea could begin to flourish. And this would be a base for all the rest.

There is, in addition, the question of privatization. It would be better to undertake it in accordance with a special program, and applying the German plan would be best, Saburov believes.

A revision of the tax system brooks no delay. The one in effect currently has stifled the producer and shrunk the tax base.

Summing up this topic, Saburov said told the deputies that there was not a clause of the program that could be put off until later. It will be necessary to do many things simultaneously both in terms of operational management and strategic direction. Budget and currency regulation are essential. It is disadvantageous to Crimea's enterprises to offer their products for export.

Judging by the fact that Saburov condemns the actions of Gaydar, who failed to notify the people of his program, Crimeans will be kept sufficiently informed as to the government's actions pertaining to emergence from the crisis situation. The reforms, incidentally, need to be implemented strictly, rapidly, and intelligently, Saburov believes. Not experiments on people, but reforms in the name of man.

Today the whole government of the Republic has resigned, and although Saburov has said that 99.9 percent of the entire former machinery of the Council of Ministers matches the required standard, this is hard to believe. The vice prime minister wishes to see henceforward a more professional government. It will include also specialists from Moscow invited by the vice premier into the "key" offices. But the vice prime minister has just as many questions and uncertainties as the journalists.

The participants in the news conference put questions on more than just the economy. They inquired as to where the vice prime minister would be living, what his horoscope sign is, and what he does in his spare time. Studies economics, apparently, but he sometimes writes poetry, not having time for prose. He was never a member of the Communist Party and is devoutly religious.

It is believed, as we all know, that by fall.... A negligible amount of time, to be frank, for the implementation of an economic program, but there are to have been changes in Crimea by this time. Certainty and awareness of his responsibility are Saburov's most compelling features.

Secret Kravchuk Decree on Nuclear Power Publicized

LD1903182794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] The Green Party of Ukraine and the Ukrainian ecological association "Green World" held a news conference on 18 March dedicated to the issue of the ecologically dangerous enterprises in Kiev. These, in

particular, are plants "Radykal" [Radical], "Khimvolokno" [Chemical Fiber], TE-6, as well as automobile transport and the radioactive contamination of the capital as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

The news conference was attended by Green Party Chairman Vitaliy Kononov, Yuriy Samoylenko, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian ecological association "Green World", Serhiy Konyukhov, the chairman of the Ecological Commission of the Ukrainian Republican Party, Mykhaylo Mykhalko, the chairman of the "Save Holosiyevo" Union [woodland on outskirts of Kiev], and others. Anatoliy Panov, the executive director of the newspaper ZELENYY SVIT [GREEN WORLD], expressed his conviction that the "hushing up of the fact that Kiev did suffer as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station is not just a detrimental, but a criminal phenomenon. If our state has no money to provide medical treatment to Kievites and improve their health, this money could be provided by the world public."

At the news conference, Greenpeace-Ukraine made public its press release disclosing a secret decree No. 64/94 by Ukraine's president of 23 February 1994 "On urgent measures to develop nuclear power engineering and create a nuclear-fuel cycle in Ukraine." The decree, in particular, envisages the commissioning of four new reactors at the Zaporozhye, Khmelnitskiy, and Rovno nuclear power stations and also the repair and putting into operation of the second power unit at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, which was ruined by fire in October 1991.

'Rather Serious Incident' at Khmelnitskiy AES

MK1903123094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 7

[Report by Kirill Dybskiy under the "Incident" rubric: "Reactor Shut Down at Khmelnitskiy Atomic Electric Power Station"]

[Text] A rather serious incident happened on 16 March at Khmelnitskiy Atomic Electric Power Station [AES] on the territory of now independent Ukraine. Your SEGODNYA correspondent was told in Russia's State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety [Gosatomnadzor] with reference to information from the Swiss headquarters of the NucNet European Nuclear Society (based on the information from Ukraine's State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety) that the events at the AES unfolded as follows:

At 2100 local time, a power cable of 0.4 kilovolts ignited in the engine room of the first reactor. The firemen put out the fire at 2110. Despite that the chiefs decided to discontinue the generator's operation and it was shut down. Ukraine's State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety rated this incident grade 1 on the seven-point INES scale.

Commenting on this occurrence, Yuriy Rogozhin, press service head of the Russian State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, stated in an interview with your SEGODNYA correspondent that a rather dubious situation prevails in CIS nuclear power engineering. For example, the Russian State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety had received information about the accident at Khmelnitskiy AES through the channels of foreign news agencies. This despite an agreement on exchanging information about this sort of occurrences signed between the two committees in 1992. The agreement was sealed at the intergovernment level a year later. Incidentally, as this issue went to print the Russian counterparts had not been alerted to the Khmelnitskiy incident by Ukraine's State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety.

Black Sea Fleet Ships in Combat Training

LD1803125994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2130 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Sevastopol—The Black Sea Fleet press center reports that on 17 March, 25 Black Sea Fleet combats ships, two submarines, and five auxiliary vessels put out to sea under the combat training plan with the aim of rehearsing course of study [kursovoy] missions. Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin has said the ships have already taken up their combat training positions between Donuzlav and Kerch.

Belarus

Government, IMF Mission Sign Memorandum

WS1803131794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Today, the final round of negotiations between the Belarusian Government and the IMF mission was held with the participation of Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. The discussion focused on the issues of carrying out economic reforms in Belarus and the role of the IMF in their implementation. The strategic goals of supporting the continuous, effective improvement of the Belarusian economy, and increasing people's living standards were specified in the signed memorandum of mutual understanding between the government and the IMF. The strategy of the program is mainly based on the renewal of macroeconomic stability, economy, the strengthening of market tendencies including a decrease in inflation, the recovery of balance of payments, and protection of the weakest groups of the population during the transition period. At the meeting, an agreement was reached to open a permanent IMF mission and nominate its chairman. The opening of this mission is planned for July 1994.

Constitution Committee: Ruble Zone Will Not Be Formed

WS1803121894 Minsk RID in Russian 1023 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Members of the Constitutional Committee and the working group for the completion of the fundamental law, E. Hlushkevych, H. Vasilevych, M. Chudakov, and V. Fadeyev held a news conference on 17 March and commented on the principal articles of the Constitution.

In the beginning they spoke about the "distinctions" and advantages of the Belarusian Constitution. However then, driven into a corner by reporters, the lawmakers had to admit that the Constitution contains a number of inconsistent and ambivalent provisions. For example, the vertical structure of presidential power has been outlined very vaguely. With regard to this, the authors of the constitution said that the article on presidential power will be accompanied by a law that is "much easier to adopt."

The issue of merging Belarusian and Russian monetary systems was also raised. According to the new Constitution, the Republic of Belarus shall pursue a single financial-credit policy, which in a way contradicts the unification. However, Yuriy Fadeyev clarified this issue by saying that a single monetary system does not necessarily denote an independent monetary system, adding that "there will be a single system in Grodno, Minsk, Vitebsk, and Brest." Thus, everything seems to be working just fine. However, confused by the questions that followed, the working group member added: "One can predict that the ruble zone will not be formed at all."

In the course of the news conference, it turned out that a number of relevant provisions were excluded from the Constitution. The legislative committee and working group members explained this by saying that those issues could hamper the adoption of the entire Constitution. Thus, one gets the impression that the Supreme Soviet aimed for a hasty adoption of the Constitution rather than its quality.

Kebich Expects Monetary Union Deal Signed in March

MK1903112094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko from Minsk under the "Neighbors" rubric: "Vyacheslav Kebich Does Not Abandon His Dream About Single Ruble Zone. Belarusian Prime Minister Bets on Russian Parliament"]

[Text] Addressing the closed meeting of the Belarusian parliament yesterday, Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich explained the situation with regard to the unification of Belarus' and Russia's monetary systems. In his view, talks between the two countries' expert groups have reached a stalemate after "Mr. Tulin, deputy Central Bank chairman, Mr. Kazmin, deputy finance minister, and some others revised the documents, a procedure that has entirely distorted the original draft treaty that was to be signed."

The issue is, first of all, what the Minsk Government sees as unacceptable demands that the two countries' budgets be merged and that the Belarusian National Bank [BNB] be stripped of its independence. In Mr. Kebich's view, these demands have emerged under pressure from certain deputy factions both at the State Duma and the Federation Council.

The general tone of Mr. Kebich's address was nonetheless optimistic. Citing a telephone conversation with his Russian colleague, Viktor Chernomyrdin, he said that "the Russian leaders have expressed their political will and unequivocal desire to sign the document, which discusses setting up a money union, as early as this month." Mr. Kebich said that "according to preliminary forecasts, most political factions and committees at the Russian State Duma support the idea of creating an economic and monetary union of the two Slavic states."

On Friday, the Belarusian prime minister had a telephone conversation with Nikolay Gonchar, chairman of the Russian Federation Council's Financial Committee. According to Mr. Kebich, it was said during the conversation that "regarding the terms set by State Duma and Federation Council factions, all political demands have been withdrawn and will no longer be made." All who did make such political demands, the Belarusian prime minister said, were trying to thwart the signing of the agreement.

On Monday, Nikolay Gonchar is expected to arrive in Minsk "to agree on all final stances." Any unification of

the two countries' budgets or infringement on the BNB's rights will not be even mentioned in the talks.

Inspired by the prospects, the Supreme Soviet has suspended the discussion on Belarus' monetary policy. A paragraph of the draft decree on the subject was planned to set forth that "the sole legal tender in the territory of the Republic" will be the BNB's banknote—the ill-famed "hare"—which is currently traded at around 0.15 Russian ruble. Pending news from Moscow, the Supreme Soviet has once again adjourned the session until 29 March.

Moldova

Snegur Meets Yeltsin Envoy on Dniester Conflict

AU1803192394 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Cristian Nita report from Chisinau]

[Text] Today, the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Mircea Snegur, received Vladlen Vasev, President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy regarding eliminating dissensions in the eastern sections of the Republic of Moldova.

As MOLDOVA PRES reports, Mr. Vasev reaffirmed President Yeltsin's position, who, as mediator, pronounces himself for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and for solving differences solely by political means.

In turn, President Snegur assessed that the parliamentary elections and the sociological opinion poll 'Consulting the People,' within the framework of which the majority of the population voted for the independence of the Republic of Moldova, constitute two essential preconditions for the recovery of the situation in the east of the Republic by granting that area a legal status implying a high degree of local administration.

In this context, it was stressed that laws in the Republic of Moldova are in keeping with the norms of a genuine democracy, which envisage, first and foremost, the observance of human rights, regardless of nationality.

During the dialogue, which was of a constructive nature, the two sides also noted that relations between the Republic of Moldova and Russia are developing fruitfully on the basis of good understanding, MOLDOVA PRES reports.

The group of experts on behalf of the Republic of Moldova, who participated in the preparation of the documents for the meeting of the CIS state leaders, which is scheduled to be held on 18 April, will conclude its activity today.

In an interview granted to the Moscow-based correspondent of Chisinau radio, Mr. Iacob Mogoreanu, permanent representative of the Republic of Moldova to the statutory bodies of the community, emphasized that the accord on free trade in the CIS economic area and the one on encouraging multinational production corporations, associations, joint ventures, and financial-credit organizations and institutions have been prepared for signing. The CIS experts have also concluded the initial stage of drafting a repayment system between the economic units in CIS member countries.

Mr. Mogoreanu also specified that the proceedings on setting up an interstate economic committee have begun; this is a body that coordinates the economic activity, he said, without which it is impossible for a community to exist.

Discuss Transdniester Issue

LD1803204094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] The Russian president's official representative, Ambassador Vladlen Vasev, has confirmed Moscow's position of standing for "the territorial integrity of Moldova and the overcoming of all discord by political means."

The Moldovan president's press service announced that Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and Russian Ambassador Vasev had met on Friday. They agreed that settlement of the Transdniestrian issue would contribute to restoration of stability in the region, which conformed with the interests of the population.

Moldovan President Snegur stressed that the democratic parliamentary elections and the sociological poll, during which most of the population had spoken for independence of Moldova, were the basis for normalization of the situation in Moldova's eastern regions. Namely, Snegur favored granting a special legal status with a high level of autonomy to this region.

Russian Envoy Explains Proposals on Conflict

LD2103105794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] 21 March, TASS—Russian presidential envoy Vladilen Vasev is now in Moldova, where he has held talks with Moldovan President Mirca Snegur, Parliament Speaker Petru Lucinskiy and leader of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic Igor Smirnov. The Russian diplomat explained to his colleagues the Russian leadership's proposals for a diplomatic solution to the civil conflict in Moldova.

The exact content of the documents given to the representatives of the two sides has not been revealed. However, ITAR-TASS learned from reliable sources that the Russian proposals are very similar in content to the report made by the CSCE mission in Moldova, which was published in February of this year.

The CSCE mission sees the restoration of Moldova's territorial integrity as the main goal of its activity in that area. The left-bank regions of the Dniester River are impossible to rule under a central government, the CSCE report declares. But at the same time, the break-away republic has no chance of getting international recognition, nor should it hope for the "confederation" or "federation" of Moldova, as the rebel leaders in Tiraspol have proposed.

The CSCE mission proposes to give the Dniester region a special political status, with its own executive power, an elected assembly, and court. This status would have to be agreed on by both sides, and would be established by Moldovan legislation. The special region would be an inseparable part of Moldova, but would have a significant amount of home-rule.

The CSCE document emphasizes the vital importance of a single economic, social, and legal system. Three categories of jurisdiction are mentioned:

The centre's exclusive jurisdiction would include citizenship, foreign policy, defence, security forces, monetary policy, and state symbols.

The region's exclusive jurisdiction would include administrative structures, regional bodies, a regional constitution, a regional budget, and regional symbols (to be used alongside the state ones).

Joint jurisdiction would include the state language and official regional languages, a common tax system with a regional branch, the police, and the court system.

Perhaps the most important part of the CSCE document is the statement that, if Moldova rejected its status as an independent state and decided to join with another state (meaning Rumania), the special Dniester region would be guaranteed the right to determine its own external status.

Official Dismissed for Embezzlement

AU1803161294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2125 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Comrat, BASAPRESS 17/3/1994—From our correspondent: The government of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic has dismissed the head of economy, finance and state inspection direction "for serious financial violations." Reliable sources told BASAPRESS that 160 million rubles were embezzled from the credits granted by the "Gagauzcombanc" to the economic entities and was later illegally invested in transactions. The budget of Gagauz Republic for 1994 was a problem of major dispute, because the localities densely inhabited by Gagauzians do not want to take part in its formation. The Gagauz government decided that the economic entities in this region should make allocations to the budget "within the necessary limits." Local observers say that the Republic became almost insolvent; it does not have budget sources.

Danish Military Delegation Arrives in Chisinau

AU1903204194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1830 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 17/3/1994—Invited by the Moldovan Ministry of Defence, an official delegation of Denmark arrived yesterday in Chisinau. It is led by Army General Iorgen Lyng, supreme commander of the Danish Armed Forces, the Ministry of Defence press secretariat reports. The schedule includes meetings with Moldovan Minister of Defence Pavel Creanga, General Headquarters Chief Pavel Chirau, Premier Andrei Sangheli, acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Ion Botnaru. A series of common interest problems will be discussed. According to the quoted source, Moldovan officials will ask for the support of Danish representatives within NATO, especially in the problem of the 14th Army withdrawal. Tomorrow, the military delegation is to return to Denmark, the press secretariat noted.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Meets Perry in Almaty

LD1903111594 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev met U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry in Alma-Ata [Almaty] today. The head of the U.S. military department told journalists after the meeting that President Bill Clinton had charged him with paying particular attention in Alma-Ata to the implementation of programmes agreed during the recent visit by President Nazarbayev to the United States. This concerns primarily the deepening reinforcement of military cooperation between the two countries, assistance to Kazakhstan on conversion, research into the Semipalatinsk testing ground to establish the extent of the damage, and providing for medical assistance to the inhabitants of the Semipalatinsk region.

Discuss Conversion, Aid, Space

LD1903151294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry is being received in Almaty today following his visit to Moscow.

[Correspondent Dukesh Baimbetov] Today, after a meeting at the Republic's Ministry of Defense, the U.S. military delegation headed by William Perry was received by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev. As is known, during the recent visit of Kazakhstan's leader to the United States the sides signed a number of documents between the two countries on economic, political, and military issues.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have charged me with paying particular attention to the practical implementation of these programs, Perry said. Today, in particular, issues were discussed regarding the United States in the conversion of defense industry enterprises in Kazakhstan, inspecting the territory of the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, and the allocation of aid to its population. Incidentally, the first aid has already arrived. The Americans brought with them very valuable diagnostic equipment and medicines. They also spoke about tripartite space cooperation between Kazakhstan, the United States, and Russia.

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] There is nothing to delay on the part of the Kazakh side. At the present time, we are holding talks with Russia. We hope that we will sign these agreements, in which all the issues will be agreed upon, this month.

We have reached agreement both with the United States and with Russia that Kazakhstan will be compensated for the cost of the highly enriched uranium that is in the warheads. [end recording] [video shows Nazarbayev and Perry at meeting and speaking to journalists afterwards]

Sign Defense Conversion Agreement

LD1903133294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1308 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Almaty 19 March, TASS— U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry, who is currently in Kazakhstan on a working visit, was received in the republican Ministry of Defence on Saturday. Mr. Perry also attended a session of the joint Kazakhstan-American committee on defence industry conversion to civilian production.

The meetings, and the talks with President Nursultan Nazarbayev several hours earlier, resulted in the signing of an agreement on the conversion of the Kazakhstan defence industry to civilian production.

The agreement is actually a supplement to the earlier reached accord on the dismantling of the SS-18 missile silos and ensures an influx of an aggregate of 70 million U.S. dollars to the republic for defence industry conversion needs.

These documents are intended to ensure the dismantling of combat nuclear missile systems based in Kazakhstan and convert them to suit civilian and peaceful purposes, and additional training of the military personnel subject to demobilisation.

U.S. businesses are to be invited to help the defence industry conversion effort. In particular, a number of American companies will be involved in the reconstruction of appropriate enterprises for them to change over to the manufacture of consumer goods.

Mr. Perry and his party are to leave for Baykonur cosmodrome on 20 March.

U.S. Defense Secretary Visits Baykonur Cosmodrome

LD2903070294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0616 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Almaty, 20 March (TASS)—On completing the official part of his Kazakh visit, U.S. Defence Secretary Willian Perry departed for the Baykonur cosmodrome from the Kazakh capital.

The secretary's visit to the cosmodrome is of a sightseeing nature. However, the aims pursued by this trip are self-evident. The U.S. side is interested in studying Baykonur's possibilities with a view to U.S. participation in the use of its unique potential.

In the opinion of several local analysts, Kazakhstan tries to bring pressure on Russia by organising the U.S. defence secretary's visit to Baykonur. Several rounds of the Kazakh-Russian talks held in the recent past brought closer the positions of the sides.

However, they could not agree, for the time being, on the period of a lease and the amount of a lease payment.

Almaty believes that if the United States displays readiness for cooperation with the Republic in the use of the cosmodrome, it will be possible to cut short the duration of its leasing to Russia and, consequently, to start earlier the establishment of an international space company or any other form of its utilisation on a multilateral basis.

Following the visit to Baykonur, Perry and his party will go to Kiev.

Enterprises on Sale by Privatization Investment Coupon

LD1803144094 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1600 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The State Property Committee has named 50 enterprises that will be offered for sale in the first ever specialized coupon auction. The list of enterprises was published in the republican newspapers YEGEMEN KAZAKHSTAN [SOVEREIGN] and KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA. These facts were given at a news conference held by Zhanibek Karibzhanov, chairman of the State Property Committee.

He stressed that a new, very important stage of implementation of the massive scale privatization program is beginning for investment funds and for floated enterprises, which will be sold at these coupon auctions. Practically all inhabitants of the Republic—96.5 percent—have already received their privatization check books. A new deadline was set and check books will continue to be handed out until 1 April.

The first auction will be held on 29 April with the participation of 109 investment funds with licences from the State Property Committee. Their applications for participation will be taken on 28 April from 1500 until 1800 local time. The starting price for a share of each of the 50 enterprises will be announced by the state committee no later than 5 April. Among objects to be put to tender: Profitable light industry enterprises, large construction industry, and processing industry from the various regions of the Republic will be sold.

Similar coupon auctions, starting from May, will be held every two weeks. Until the end of the year, at 17 auctions, shares of 1,200 enterprises are planned to be sold for privatization investment coupons, and shares of 2,500 enterprises—by the end of 1995.

Kyrgyzstan

President Returns From Moscow; Met by Leaders

LD1903113694 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] On 17 March, the president of Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akayev, arrived on the evening flight in Bishkek. He had been staying near Moscow on leave, and for treatment. At Manas airport he was met by Abbas Dzhumagulov, the prime minister of the Republic; Bakayev, the chairman of the Committee for National Security; Defense Minister Subanov; Interior Minister Sutalinov; and other officials.

Increase in Russian-Speakers Leaving Kyrgyzstan

LD2003152194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The head of Kyrgyzstan's parliament said the outflow of Russian speakers from the Central Asian republic was seriously harming its culture, education and economy.

Medetkan Sherimkulov told INTERFAX on Saturday that 100,000 Russian-speakers had already left Kyrgyzstan, which has a Russian-speaking community of about 1 million, or 20 percent of the total population. He said more Russian speakers were leaving than were coming in, the gap permanently increasing. As a result, the republic is losing much of its engineering and research personnel, many teachers and high-skilled workers, he said.

Sherimkulov believes that what forces so many Russian speakers to go away is fear of possible future instability and the low wages, which on average are less than half those in Russia.

Tajikistan

Russian Guards, Opposition Clash on Border

LD2003090694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0811 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 20 Mar—During the night there was a big clash between Russian border troops and Tajik opposition fighters in one of the sectors of the Pyanj border detachment. According to military sources, intruders, whose numbers were not established, attempted to cross from Afghanistan into Tajikistan with weapons and ammunition. Their attempt did not succeed, and abandoning their loads and leaving several dead, the fighters returned to the other side of the border. There are no casualties among the Russian border troops.

According to the Russian military, the past 24 hours have been relatively quiet in the other sectors of the Tajik-Afghan border. Military equipment and subunits of fighters are being concentrated along the border in the northern provinces of Afghanistan.

Talks Held in Afghan Port on Return of Refugees

LD2003132294 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0100 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Tahir Ahmadov, one of the leaders of the working group dealing with the return of the Tajik refugees from the Islamic State of Afghanistan held talks in Sherkhan Bander district, lower Pyanj, with Haji Farid Farukh, acting head of this port [Sherkhan Bander, in Afghanistan]. During the talks, questions related to the return of the Tajik refugees from Afghanistan and political problems in Afghanistan that are hindering the return of the refugees. Currently, more than 600 refugees have gathered in the port wanting to return home.

Rakhmonov Attends Regional Executive Chairmen Seminar

LD1803135994 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] A republic seminar-conference of chairmen of executive committees of the local soviets of people's deputies continues its work in Dushanbe. Its participants met the members of the presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, yesterday.

The issues relating to the population's social security during the period of transition to a market economy, financial and economic activities of the executive committees, and the strengthening of material and technical bases of the local soviets were discussed.

Emomali Rakhmonov, the head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan met the participants of the seminar-conference yesterday afternoon. He pointed out that the specific tasks of the local soviets were determined in the republican meeting that took place in Dushanbe on 25 February 1994. That is why, he pointed out, everyone has to resolve issues relating to a way out of the economic crisis and the successful implementation of the spring sowing.

Similarly, issues relating to the repatriation of refugees, creation of new working seats, provision of food for the population, and other vital problems were examined during the course of the meeting.

Rakhmonov said that the working commission has completed the work on the draft of the new Tajik constitution and asks the participants of the seminar-conference to express their opinion on ways of adopting the new constitution, holding the referendum on determining the form of state administration, and election of the new parliament.

The head of state answered numerous questions from the chairmen of town and rayon executive committees.

Uzbekistan

Presidential Edict on Denationalization, Privatization

LD1803173694 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 1

[Edict of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the priority areas for the further development of the process of denationalization and privatization in the Republic of Uzbekistan]

[Text] For the purpose of ensuring consistent denationalization and privatization as a basis for building a mixed, socially orientated market economy, the strengthening of the private sector and creating a competitive environment:

1. It is to be specified that the priority areas of the process of denationalization and privatization are:

—Extensive public involvement in the process of economic reforms through development of the securities market and creation of open joint-stock companies, and by reducing the government's shares in the enterprises at the same time;
—Creation of the property market by means which, first, should include the sale on the open market of retail establishments, consumer and municipal services outlets and uncompleted building sites;
—Creation of the production facilities market by way of involving wholesale enterprises in this process and by setting up a network of goods and commodities exchanges;
—Demonopolization of the existing industrial and administrative structures and reducing the number of enterprises currently under privatization restrictions;
—Attraction of foreign investment into the republic's economy by means of tenders, auctions and investment dealings, as well as direct property sales;
—Provision of state support for privatized enterprises.

2. When forming the authorized capital of joint-stock companies with shares open to the public in which the state preserves its share, primarily the following blocks of shares should be envisaged:

—The state;
—The labor collective;
—The foreign partner;

For sale in the open market at stock exchanges or securities markets, inter alia abroad.

3. To adopt the plan of action for the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan to deepen the privatization process.

4. The State Committee for Management of State Property and Support for Entrepreneurship of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to be granted the right:

—Within its competence to define the forms in which enterprises and organizations are to be taken out of state control and privatized, and to draw up and adopt the necessary normative documents and the procedure for setting up privatization commissions;
—Through the Fund of State Property and financially autonomous subordinate units to act as a founder or member of stock exchanges, property exchanges, investment banks and funds;
—To use the state's share of dividends for 1994 for developing and technically re-equipping the joint-stock companies, which are being set up.

5. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan is:

—In the space of two weeks, on the basis of the above-mentioned priorities, to finalize and adopt the state program for denationalization and privatization in the Republic;
—In the space of a month to bring the decisions of the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan in line with this decree; according to the standard procedure, to introduce proposals for amendments and additions to the existing legislation, and to ensure that acts adopted by the Republic's ministries, state committees and departments are to be revised and rescinded if they contradict the present decree.

[signed] I. Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, 15 March 1994

Special Stockholding, Commercial Bank Set Up

LD2003165394 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued a decree on the formation of a special (stockholding) and commercial bank to assist with trading and commercial activities. The document states that with the aim of meeting the requirements of the population in goods and replenishing the home market and also for providing financial support to [word indistinct] and further developing trade in the Republic, a special stockholding and commercial bank called Saudagar [Trader] to promote trade and commerce be formed. Its main activities will be to serve the trading organizations of Uzbekistan, carry out commodity circulation, engage in trading and purchasing operations, and [words indistinct] between trading organizations and enterprises in other fields of the economy.

The founders of the Saudagar bank will be the Finance Ministry, the Central Bank, the Uzbeksauda [Uzbek trade] Association, [name indistinct], Uzbekbirlashu [Uzbek Association], and the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The full text of the this decree will be published in the press.

Local Media Carry 'Letters of Support' for Karimov

LD1803181394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 18 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: By diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] The president's press service had a set of letters of support for Islam Karimov published in local media.

Tashkent residents wrote that whatever Uzbekistan had accomplished was the result of the president's resolute activities "for the great cause of making the republic one of the most advanced countries of the world." The authors of the letters "as Uzbek subjects" wanted to stand by the Uzbek leader to help him. They emphasized that Karimov "worked self-sacrificingly for peace and quiet in the Republic."

The letters expressed indignation over "the activities of a bunch of slanderers who fled Uzbekistan and smuggled into it the publications that libel the Motherland."

The authors of the letters called on the president to put an end to the activities of those who smuggled "slanderous pieces" into the Republic and "could not reconcile to Uzbekistan's future as a great state."

Foreign Travel Made Easier for Uzbek Citizens

LD1803172794 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0215 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] With the aim of simplifying foreign travel procedures for Republic of Uzbekistan citizens, and in line with the decree by Islam Karimov, the president of Uzbekistan, on measures for further deepening economic reforms, providing for the protection of private property, and the development of entrepreneurship from 21 January of the current year, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a decision on procedures for foreign travel by Republic of Uzbekistan citizens. The temporary procedures for foreign travel by Uzbekistan citizens will be published in the press.

Armenia

Turkish Officials Discuss Border Ties

NC1903103594 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2000 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Huseyin Atak, the governor of Kars Province, paid a visit to Gyumri on 17 March at the invitation of Andranik Kocharyan, Armenian Government's plenipotentiary representative in Shirak [region around town of Gyumri].

In a news conference on 18 March, Kocharyan spoke about the governor's visit and noted that this was the first step after a long intermission on the way to establishing cooperation and good-neighborly relations with the neighboring province. He stressed that the talks basically centered on the organization of border trade, restoration of rail traffic, implementation of mutually-advantageous economic programs, and improvements in the tourism industry. The development of ties with the neighboring country would [words indistinct]. And everything must be done to raise cooperation between Shirak and Kars Province to a new level.

The plenipotentiary representative also stressed that the talks were preliminary in nature and touched upon purely economic issues.

He is expected to visit Kars next month. There, proposals for cooperation in diverse fields will be presented to the Turkish side.

Party Official on 'Recognition' of Karabakh

NC1903105494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1500 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 18 (SNARK)—Russia must become the guarantee of recognition of the republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, Nikolay Lysenko, the chairman of the National-Republican Party of Russia, said today in Yerevan. Commenting the results of the visit to Stepanakert, Lysenko said "According to the international regulations Karabakh has a right to establish sovereign republic."

On his words Armenia, Russia, Karabakh are connected by geographical strategic interests. He said "the policy, pursued by Turkey in Transcaucasia, must be considered as directed against Russia. The aggression of Azerbaijan against Karabakh wouldn't be possible if Turkey didn't support Azerbaijan." According to him there are a few people in the State Duma that agree with national-republicans in the question concerning to Armenia and Karabakh. Today the delegation of National-republican party leave for Moscow.

Karabakh Front Quiet; Azeri Troops Concentrate

NC1903163394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1114 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Stepanakert, MARCH 19 (SNARK)—Today there has been relative quietness at the Karabakh front since morning. SNARK was informed by the Karabakh Department of Information and Press at some places of the front the quietness was disrupted by separate skirmishes time by time.

Meanwhile, according to data of the same source, the Azerbaijani side is accumulating its troops at the eastern part of Karabakh front.

Official Urges International Conflict Mediation

LD2003182494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Armenia wishes the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to be settled through negotiations involving not only Armenia, Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Russia but also European nations and the United States, an Armenian statesman said.

But such talks must be preceded by an unconditional ceasefire, Ara Saakian, first deputy chairman of the Armenian parliament, told INTERFAX on Sunday.

Today both Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan are making preliminary conditions, the former pressing for a ceasefire and a certain legal status for itself, the latter demanding that Nagorno-Karabakh withdraw its troops from Azerbaijani territories they occupy, Saakian said.

He said Armenia "is building great hopes" on Russia's mediation.

Meanwhile, disagreements between Armenia and Azerbaijan last week prevented the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly meeting in St. Petersburg from passing an appeal against the imposition of a transport or energy blockade by one Commonwealth state against another. Azerbaijani delegation leader Afiyaddin Dzhalilov insisted that the appeal include a provision for a mechanism for liberating the 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands occupied by Nagorno-Karabakh forces and for bringing back home the more than a million Azerbaijani refugees.

Security Department Seeks Official; Arrests Wife

NC1903110694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1500 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 18 (SNARK)—The Armenia's Office of Prosecutor has decided to arrest Vahan Avakyan, the first deputy of the Chief Adviser of the Armenian president on questions of national security. David Shahnazaryan, the acting chief of the Armenia's State Department of National Security, said that on March 15 in the Yerevan airport "Zvartnots" Zaruyi Yavuryan, the wife of Avakyan had been arrested when she tried to take out from the republic 6 floppy diskettes

and documents with the secret information, which was, according to the official resolution, state secret.

Vahan Avakyan, who was in Moscow in that time, refused to return to Armenia, when the president apparat called him back. Some time later he connected with the president apparat by telephone and said that he was out of the CIS and was under protection of a foreign country.

According to Shahnazaryan, they instituted proceeding on these facts. Ashot Manucharyan, the former Chief Adviser of the Armenian president on National security, acts as a witness in this case but he refused to give any testimony. On Shahnazaryan's words, taking into account the publications in the Bulgarian press, Vahan Avakyan is in Bulgaria now. "Armenian officially asked Bulgaria's authorities about that but hasn't received any explanation yet." Shahnazaryan said.

Azerbaijan

Explosion Rocks Baku Metro Station

LD1903133594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1323 GMT 19 Mar 94

[By AZERTAC correposndent Jamilya Kuliyeva for TASS]

[Text] Baku March 19 TASS—An explosion and an ensuing fire occurred in a front carriage of a metro train at the Baku underground railway station "20 January" at 14.00 on Saturday, competent sources told AZERTAC.

A government commission is investigating the causes of the tragedy. Data on victims are being verified.

Reportedly Kills 6

NC1903135494 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 19 (AFP)—At least six people were killed and 56 others were wounded Saturday in an explosion in a metro station in the Azerbaijani capital Baku, the Azeri news agency Assa Irada said. The agency said the blast was a "terrorist" action, although no further details were immediately available.

For more than five years Azerbaijan has been fighting a bloody war with Armenian separatists over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in south western Azerbaijan.

Death Toll Reaches 12

LD1903191594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We have just received the latest figures from Baku—still preliminary. It is now reported that 12 people have died and there are 53 injured as a result of the explosion. But these figures too, may not yet be the final ones.

City Procurator on Bomb Blast

LD1903194594

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel in Russian at 1800 GMT on 19 March, during its regular "Novosti" newscast, carries a 2-minute report over video by correspondent Mais Mamedov on the Baku metro blast.

Mamedov begins the report from Baku, over video of people entering a metro station, by saying that the capital was particularly busy today because people were preparing for tomorrow's Muslim festival. At 1355 hours local time, as a train drew into the 20 January station, there was a powerful explosion in the front carriage. Following clips of the mangled wreckage, pools of blood, and rescue workers on the station platform, Mamedov interviews Baku City Procurator Adil Agayev, identified by caption, next to the wrecked train. Agayev says a powerful explosive device was planted in the train and adds: "And all these deeds that have taken place recently in the city of Baku demonstrate that a group of saboteurs is permanently operating in Baku. According to preliminary information, according to the testimony of witnesses, it is evident that there was a suspicious individual in the carriage where the explosion occurred today. We have been given a description of him and an identikit picture is being built up of him to establish his identity in the city."

In the studio, the announcer adds that according to the latest preliminary figures, 12 people died and 53 were injured in the blast.

Spokesman Blames Armenians

NC1903204694 Paris AFP in English 1953 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 19 (AFP)—At least 12 people were killed and 61 others injured, eight seriously, in an explosion Saturday in a crowded subway station in Baku, Azerbaijani authorities reported.

Fuad Akhundov, a presidential spokesman contacted by AFP, said that the explosion was caused by a delayed-action bomb.

The blast ripped through two coaches of a train in the January 20 subway station, the Azerbaijani news agency ASSA-IRADA said. First the head wagon, then the second exploded, both being engulfed by fire, it said.

"According to all probabilities, it was the Armenians," Akhundov said.

Azerbaijani troops have been fighting a six-year war against Armenian separatists from Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory populated mostly by Armenians but controlled by Baku.

More than 20,000 people have been killed in the fighting since 1988 and the Armenians were widely seen in Baku as likely perpetrators of any bombing.

However, no explosive device had been discovered by Saturday evening to back the bomb thesis.

A local journalist reached by phone said that about 100 wounded people were evacuated from the station which was closed by police shortly after the blast.

Tensions have been running high in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, in recent weeks after security forces began a crackdown against opposition forces supporting exiled former president Abulfaz Elchibey.

Several members of the Popular Front headed by Elchibey have been arrested and police have staged raids on the headquarters of the opposition party.

After the blast Saturday, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev called an emergency meeting of internal security officials, but the outcome of the meeting was not immediately known.

The explosion occurred around 1:00 p.m. (0800 GMT) in the subway station located in the northern district of the city and named "January 20" after the 1990 crackdown in Azerbaijan by Soviet troops.

At least 170 people died in the crackdown ordered by Moscow to quash weeks of violence between Armenians and Azeris in the northern suburb of Sumgait.

A diplomat in Baku said the number of casualties was probably increased by the fact that people were out in force to go shopping ahead of the new year celebrations Monday (as calculated by the old, pre-Islamic calendar).

Another explosion took place a month ago on a train coming into Azerbaijan from Russia, without causing any casualties. Responsibility for the explosion was not established.

Ministry Accuses Armenia of Renewing Hostilities

LD1803142194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1331 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 18 Mar—After the short period of calm that followed the meeting of the heads of parliament of Azerbaijan and Armenia, the Armenian side has again started military operations. According to the reports from Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense that have come in today, they resumed on Thursday after the shelling of Azerbaijan Army positions in the direction of Agdam from a "Grad" missile installation, which did not stop for 24 hours.

The same source informs of a concentration of forces and equipment by the enemy on other sections of the front.

Many Armenians Said Killed, Wounded

LD2003153294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Having concentrated armored equipment and personnel in the southern section of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone, Armenian formations assumed an offensive on the strategic railway station Goradiz near the Azerbaijani border on March 19, the press center of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry told Interfax. Armenians also tried to attack the Azerbaijani positions near the village of Ashagy Seidakhmedly in Azerbaijan's Fizuli Region.

The same source reports that following combat operations which lasted for 24 hours, the Armenian offensive was rebuffed. In the Goradiz direction alone, 100 Armenian soldiers were killed or wounded. Armenians also lost a tank and an armored personnel carrier.

No reports have arrived yet from the headquarters of the Karabakh Defense Army.

Further on Fighting

LD1903170394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] As Interfax learned at the press service of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army, a relative calm on the Karabakh front established in recent days was violated on Saturday morning.

According to the press service, concentration of Azeri troops on the southeastern part of the front undertook an offensive in the direction of the regional center Fizuli. However, by the afternoon Nagorno-Karabakh defense units managed to repel all attacks of the Azeri Army inflicting it considerable losses.

As of 15:00 fighting on that part of the front continued. There have been no major changes in other parts of the front.

In the meantime, the Azeri Defense Ministry reports that yesterday Armenian artillery shelled Azeri positions in the Fizuli and Agdam parts of the front. There have been no casualties. Damage is being estimated.

Ministry on Attack, Casualties

NC2003183994 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 20 Mar 94

["Text" of Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense press service communique on 20 March]

[Text] Enemy units, which [words indistinct], launched a strong three-pronged attack on our positions early on 19 March. The attacks were launched from Goradiz district,

[placename indistinct], which was occupied, and [words indistinct]. The enemy units also attacked from the direction of Kurapatkino and tried to penetrate our defenses. Serious clashes are taking place in that part of the front line. Azerbaijan's military forces are trying to defend their homeland on the eve of the Novruz Festival. The enemy has suffered many casualties. The enemy units have lost more than 100 troops, five tanks, and an infantry combat vehicle in that battlefield. The Armenians have been forced to retreat along the entire front line.

Meanwhile, various areas along Azerbaijan's border with Armenia have been fired on by various types of arms from that Republic's territory.

Aliyev Sends Condolences to Rafsanjani on Crash

LD2003144694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Azerbaijan's President Geydar Aliyev has lamented the death of 19 passengers and 13 members of the crew of the Iranian C-130 cargo jet which crashed on March 18 several kilometers away from Nagorno-Karabakh's capital Stepanakert.

In a telephone conversation on March 19 the Azeri leader briefed Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on what Baku knew about the air crash.

The two presidents stressed the need for an in-depth investigation into the circumstances of the crash. They felt an investigation must be carried out on the site of the tragic incident.

People's Front Leaders Again Detained

NC1903110094 Baku TURAN in English 1843 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 18) TURAN—"The police continues illegal arrests of the members of the Popular Front", said the member of Consultative Council of the PFA, People's Deputy, Nadzaf Nadzafov.

He said that last night the policemen raided the building of Baku's Sabail district headquarters of the Popular Front. The policemen detained employees including Deputy Chairman of the PFA. The police did not present any warrants.

"Yesterday at 11:00 in the evening, we informed the Chairman of Supreme Soviet, Rasul Guliyev, about what happened. He said that those who were detained have already been released.

But they were released only this morning. The police said that the employees of the PFA were detained because they tried to put up resistance", said Nadzafov.

Today the trial of the detained employees of the PFA has begun. Either they will be fined or sentenced to 30 days of imprisonment.

Split in Aliyev Party Seen Looming

PM1803120194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Mar 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Arif Useynov: "Azerbaijan: Split in Ruling Party"]

[Text] Baku—It is not a simple case: A split seems to be coming to a head within the leadership of the New Azerbaijan Party led by Heydar Aliyev. Opposition newspapers, in particular MUKHALIFAT [name as transliterated], present what is happening as a sensation and maliciously hint that the president's political party is not destined to be long-lived.

However, it is not a question of major political or ideological differences. It is just that party functionaries in the upper echelons have let themselves become embroiled in the fighting that usually flares up when people display irrepressible appetites. They are squabbling not in their offices but in two popular newspapers, NEW AZERBAIJAN and SES [name as transliterated]. The former has ambition, the latter has accusations to make.

Deputy General Secretary Ali Nagiyev, who, informed sources report, is the president's agent, has come under fire. He is being charged with various crimes, which, observers believe, is not that important compared with the fact that the republic's largest political organization has unexpectedly started making a show of its "internal feuding."

That will hardly affect the rating of the president-general secretary. It was, after all, Heydar Aliyev's prestige and his wealth of political experience that helped to boost the image of the party itself. Admittedly it has not so far held a constituent congress, although, according to some reports, it has put together a fairly ramified mobile network of primary organizations. It has none of the "dead souls" in its ranks that are so widespread in the republic's other political organizations.

It is deemed a matter of prestige to be a member of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party—its representatives are gradually replacing former People's Front functionaries in leadership posts. There is every indication that those who have ended up unwanted are rebelling, trying to remove or compromise the general secretary's most intractable associates. Amid this hubbub a trend inherent in virtually all Azerbaijan's political organizations is clearly appearing: Following the formation of a new party the fight for power is stepped up followed by a fight for prestigious posts.

By and large a trite situation that has little to do with state organizational development or ideological support for the democratic transformations in society being carried out under the "president's program." In a word, what has happened had to happen: The new party has been organizationally constituted, without however being able, contrary to expectations, to take the lead in

society. That is one of the reasons for the imminent split, not proximity to and influence on the party's leader.

When assessing what is happening observers discern the following important factor: The feuding is coming from outside, with the intention of weakening the ranks of Geydar Aliyev's supporters and making the party he leads a laughing stock. That is just how the "newspaper barrage" appears, disappointing the long expectations and belief that the avowed ideals are of real interest to Azerbaijanis.

The party elders are making the most sensible suggestions: They have asked the general secretary to put an end to the growing strife and denunciations. However, things are being aggravated by the fact that the political commission has not met for a long time and there is no glasnost and collegiality in the executive structure's decisionmaking. Moreover, leaders who come after the general secretary in the hierarchy are sometimes unable to control their own actions and emotions, causing mass discontent among rank-and-file party members.

Georgia

Chikvaidze To Sign Partnership for Peace 23 Mar

LD1903163794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Having participated in the meeting of foreign ministers of the CIS member-countries in Moscow, Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze left for Brussels yesterday. Zurab Abashidze, the Georgian ambassador to the European Union told SAKINPORMI news agency that Georgian Foreign Minister Chikvaidze will sign the NATO Partnership for Peace program in Brussels on 23 March this year. Thus, Georgia will become the third former Soviet republic after Ukraine and Moldova to join this initiative. After the signing of the document, work will begin on drafting an agreement on mutual cooperation between NATO and the Republic of Georgia.

A NATO delegation will visit Tbilisi on 24 March to discuss principal trends and prospects of cooperation.

Turkey Ready To Aid With Navy Organization

MK1903130094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric]

[Text] Captain 1st Rank Aleksandr Dzhavakhishvili, commander of Georgia's naval forces, met with the military attache Colonel Zekai Bobuch-Oglu [as transliterated] of the Turkish Embassy in Georgia. The discussion touched upon the question of forming a special naval brigade in the city of Poti and the functioning of a naval center. The Turkish military attache voiced his country's readiness to cooperate with Georgia in the organizational development of a navy. The naval forces command has turned to businessmen and representatives of business circles with a request to render financial aid in developing a national navy.

The parliamentary opposition has turned to Eduard Shevardnadze and chiefs of the State Department of Television and Radio Broadcasting with a demand to demonopolize the media and allot two hours of air time to representatives of the opposition. In the event the demand is refused, the statement says, the opposition would think that Georgia's authorities "are against free thought."

Underground Organization Threatens Ardzinba

LD1903210994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2025 GMT 19 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi March 19 TASS—An underground organisation has threatened to topple Abkhazian Parliament Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba if he rejects peaceful settlement of the Abkhazian conflict.

"We will have to take up arms to stand up against Ardzinba unless he and his associates agree to a peaceful settlement of the conflict with the Georgian side," the underground organisation called "For Peaceful Abkhazia" said in a statement on Saturday.

The statement addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian Leader Eduard Shevardnadze was circulated in Tbilisi today.

"We ask (you) to take urgent measures to restore peace and accord on the long-suffering Abkhazian soil. Out of the republic's 500,000 residents only slightly more than 100,000 are left. If the United Nations does not interfere urgently and if the most cardinal measurers are not taken, the continuing genocide against the population of Abkhazia may lead to unrectifiable consequences," the statement said.

The organisation has offered a concrete plan of a fast settlement of the conflict and stabilisation of the situation in Abkhazia. "We ask President Boris Yeltsin to bring in peace-keeping troops. We believe that they will be able to bring peace and calm. We appeal to Mr. Shevardnadze to ensure public order in Abkhazia by means of Georgian police."

The organisation operates in strict secrecy and distributes its materials through middlemen who refuse to identify themselves. The composition of the organisation is unknown.

Organization's Existence Denied

LD2003131494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The press service of the Abkhaz representative in Moscow has denied a report that an underground organization against the present course of the Abkhazian leadership has been set up in the republic. The press service issued a document that says that this information is another forged document issued by the Georgian side.

Abkhazia's Sosnaliyev Edict Introduces New Draft

LD1803174794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 18 TASS—The Republic of Abkhazia has begun a new draft of its citizens to an active military service which is being carried out on the basis of the current constitution, decrees by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and resolutions by the Abkhazian State Committee for Defence.

Abkhazian Defence Minister Sultan Sosnaliyev issued a decree "on the order of carrying out military service" according to which persons liable to military service and shirking their duty, are considered military criminals, the press service of the Abkhazian representative in the Russian Federation reported on Friday.

Estonia

Ministry Welcomes Accord on Troop Withdrawal

LD1803144394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloverian]

[Text] Tallinn March 18 TASS—The Estonian Foreign Ministry welcomes the agreement on terms, date and procedure of Russia's troop withdrawal from Latvia, the Estonian Foreign Ministry said in a statement for the press on Friday.

A draft agreement between Russia and Estonia was prepared for the 17th round of bilateral negotiations, "but Russia was not ready to sign it," the statement said.

According to the Estonian Foreign Ministry, the Russian troop pull-out should not be linked to any additional terms. Estonia expresses the hope that "Russia will be ready to initial the agreement at the next round of talks, due to be held in Moscow from April 5 to 6.

Further on Reaction

LD1903094694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] The Estonian Foreign Ministry has welcomed the treaty initialled at the last round of Russian-Latvian talks on the withdrawal of Russian Armed Forces from Latvia, which stipulates that the troops must be withdrawn by 31 August this year. The Estonian Foreign Ministry also expresses the hope that on the basis of the proposal made by the Russian prime minister to withdraw troops from Estonia by 31 August, and on the attitude of the international community that no additional conditions may be attached to the withdrawal, Russia will be ready to initial the treaty on the withdrawal of the troops at the next, the 18th round of talks, which will take place in Moscow on 5, 6 April.

Ministry Says Pact With Russia Ready To Sign

WS1803185694 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 1549 GMT 18 Mar 94

["Immediate release" from the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tallinn: "Estonian-Russian Agreement Ready To Be Initialled in April in Moscow"]

[Text] March 18, 1994—The initialing of the agreement for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia by August 31, 1994 is viewed as a positive development by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is important to note that the agreement for the complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia is also ready to be initialled. Estonia had hoped that this could have been done at the last round of talks, but instead the Russian side presented new demands and even placed the mutually agreed upon withdrawal date of August 31, 1994 into question.

In light of the Russian Prime Minister's recent stated agreement to remove Russian troops from Estonia by August 31, 1994 and the international consensus that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia can not be tied to any conditions, the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hopes that Russia will initial the agreement to withdraw troops from Estonia during the 18th round of negotiations April 5-6 in Moscow.

By completing the removal of its troops from all three Baltic States by August 31, 1994, Russia will finally be in conformance with paragraph 15 of the 1992 Helsinki document, which requires "early, orderly and complete" withdrawal.

Negotiator on Expected Schedule

WS1803185494 Tallinn BNS in English 1357 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 18, BNS - The hope that Russia will hand over to Estonia a timetable for pulling its troops out from the country is getting smaller and smaller, said Vaino Reinart, Estonia's chief negotiator for the talks with Russia.

Reinart said Estonia is currently working on new wordings for the texts of the draft treaties, which he said now "hopefully are also acceptable to the Russian side."

He expressed hope that progress will be made at the next round of the talks, due to start on Apr. 5, also over the troop withdrawal agreement. "This agreement was ready already once, but because of the proposed amendments from the Russian side some disputed wordings have come up," the head of the Estonian delegation said.

Commenting on Russia's demands that the troop withdrawal agreement must be signed together with an agreement on social guarantees for the retired Russian military in Estonia, Reinart said differences in opinions of the two parties still remained over the latter.

"The greatest difference is that the Russian side would like to set forth in the agreement the circle of the retired military who are entitled to apply for a residence permit in Estonia. Estonia's position, however, is that the agreement is not meant to determine the circle of the retired military, but will establish regulations on how the retired military would get their pensions from Russia and how they will pay for medical services," Reinart said.

The second major difference is over granting the retired military the right to privatize their flats for vouchers. Reinart said Russia wants that Estonia delivered to the retired military its privatization vouchers for the time of their service in the armed forces.

"Since Estonia doesn't give the vouchers even to Estonian citizens for the years of service in the Russian army, this means that the Russian side wants to have for the

retired Russian military a little more rights than the Estonian citizens are having," Reinart explained.

The head of the Russian delegation for the talks, Vasiliy Svirin, has said Russia will continue discussing the issue of social guarantees for its retired military at the talks with Estonia.

The 18th round of the talks will be held on Apr. 5-6 near Moscow. Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar has said Estonia plans no changes in its delegation and will continue with its present team.

Luik on Agreements Signed in Ukraine, Israel

LD1803154394 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Excerpts] President Lennart Meri highly rated his visits to Israel and Ukraine; they were also productive. [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Juri Luik provided a survey of the agreements concluded.

[Begin Luik recording] With Israel we signed an agreement on the protection of investments. Now that there is quite substantial economic interest in Estonia on the part of Israeli businessmen this will definitely liven any business dealings and provide some kind of security and guarantees.

With Ukraine we signed agreements on developing scientific and cultural links and on visa-free travel for the holders of diplomatic passports. (?Travel on diplomatic passports does not, of course, amount to much) but it displays the first signs of goodwill, all the same. Serious agreements are probably to follow after a while. The most serious agreement will evidently be the one on free trade between the two countries. Estonian businessmen find it impossible to transport many goods, with the customs duty at 30 percent, which is definitely too much, so talks were held in this respect. We also have Peeter Tohver, the Economics Ministry's deputy chancellor with us. Evidently, an agreement on transit transport will also be completed in the near future. It will enable Ukraine to use Estonian ports as well as us using the services of Black Sea ports, should the need arise. So, I believe that trade and business relations between the two countries received quite a substantial boost [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Ulmanis Holds News Conference on Visit to Italy

LD1803164094 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpt] This afternoon the Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis and representatives of the government cabinet returned to Riga from Italy, having discussed on their two-day official visit future co-operation between the two countries. From Riga airport, where a news conference took place, our correspondent Ainars Asaks has returned. Let's listen to the president's brief assessment of the visit.

[Begin Ulmanis recording] This was my first visit this year outside the country's borders, and I regard the visit as successful. We are satisfied with the results of our work. For two days we were in two states: Italy and the Vatican. The first purpose of this visit was to create mutual understanding between Italy and Latvia, the Vatican and Latvia. In the two days we met both the Italian president and the foreign minister and Foreign Ministry representatives. On the second day there was to my mind a very important reception at the Vatican. With great sympathy, with great support, the Pope very attentively listened to the problems that are current in Latvia. The parties to the talks (?assessed) Latvian-Russian relations. Although the Pope did not promise anything, nevertheless, I understand from what he said that he regards Latvia and the Baltic lands as very important geopolitically for the development of this region, which could be a golden key in the formation of relations between East and West. [end recording]

After the withdrawal of the Russian troops, Italian-Latvian relations will become more stable, emphasized Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs at the news conference.

[Begin Andrejevs recording] On questions of a general nature, there was of course interest in how Italian-Latvian relations could develop in the future. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ukraine Envoy Sees Relations as 'Model for Europe'

LD1803150194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0700 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The next stop on the Estonian president's tour after Israel was Ukraine, where Yuriy Olenenko, Ukrainian ambassador to Estonia, accompanied the Estonian delegation. Here is what he thought of the visit.

[Begin Olenenko recording in Russian fading into superimposed report in Estonian] The ambassador regards the fact that the meeting took place as well as its outcome as something very important. He is convinced that it will pave the way toward a strengthening of political, economic, and cultural relations between Estonia and Ukraine. The ambassador emphasized that the Ukrainian leadership and President Kravchuk will rate the visit and the agreements achieved very highly. The agreements allow for relations between our countries to develop further by using every opportunity to this end.

Ukraine and Estonia see each other as equal partners. They do not set any conditions on each other. Instead, they aim for relations between our states to serve as a model for Europe, to serve as a guarantor for stability. [passage omitted] (end recording]

[Announcer] I will remind you here once again what Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said at a press

conference yesterday: There is no Russian-speaking population; there are only nationalities, the Russians, Ukrainians, Estonians. Why should a person who speaks Russian have immediate protection because of this fact?

Panel To Facilitate Possible EU Membership Meets

WS2103104294 Tallinn BNS in English 1312 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 19, BNS—A work group set up to make preparations for Estonia's possible membership in the European Union [EU] met in Tallinn Friday [18 March] to draw up a tentative timetable for discussion of the outcome of panel meetings under the group.

Each of the different panels under the work group has to present by March 31 a report on the predicted changes that may take place in connection with the country's joining the EU, a representative at the Foreign Ministry press office said.

The meetings are to estimate whether the predicted changes will be in line with Estonia's current principles and directions of development. Also to be assessed is the volume of work to be done in preparing for the membership, its costs, and how to get experts from different fields involved in the project.

Negotiator Returns From European Stability Talks

WS1803143894 Tallinn BNS in English 1042 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 18, BNS—The head of the Estonian delegation for talks with Russia, Vaino Reinart, returned from Brussels today where he held consultations with representatives of the European Union on preparations for the European stability pact.

The European stability pact above all concerns the nine central European nations that are regarded as potential future members of the European Union, Reinart said. He added that the pact would facilitate and pave way for these countries' becoming EU members.

The main emphasis in the pact is laid on resolving all kinds of border disputes and ethnic minority issues, he said. Reinart said that EU officials dealing with the European stability pact were having it clear that no minority problems existed in Estonia and that the issues was about "integrating the citizens of other countries into the Estonian society."

Russia Refuses To Respond To Spying Charges

WS1803150994 Tallinn BNS in English 1042 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 18, BNS—The Russian embassy in Tallinn says it is unnecessary to publicly respond to anonymous charges of spying moved against Anatoliy Chizhikov, a counsellor at the embassy.

"We do not consider it necessary to publicly respond to such provocative actions by anonymous authors. But speaking about the Russian diplomat concerned, he received the agreement from the Estonian government for being accredited in the Republic of Estonia in his capacity as military, air force and naval attache with the Russian embassy in Tallinn," said Andrey Yakushev, press attache at the embassy.

Estonia's Eesti Aeg weekly newspaper in its Wednesday's [16 March] edition published an unsigned paper saying that Anatoliy Chizhikov is the "chief Russian spy in Estonia." Anonymous authors of the note claim the diplomat "coordinates the activity of the Russian spying center operating in Estonia," as well as of a "special intelligence group" which includes employees from the Estonian Defense Ministry, the Central Staff, the Interior and Foreign ministries, as well as other government departments.

Laar Reassures on Russian Airfield

LD2103151694 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mart Laar said today during the Riigikogu information hour that beginning in March of last year Estonian border guards began partially controlling the aircraft landing at and taking off from Amari Airfield, which is under Russian military control. Laar stated that the export of goods and illegal border crossings via Amari are no longer possible because Russian servicemen must first obtain permission from the Estonian Defense Ministry for flights. He rejected claims that criminal forces are using Amari to export cars. According to information available to Laar, five Russian military transport planes have landed and taken off at Amari during the first months of the year, having been first cleared by the Estonian border guards. [passage omitted]

Limits on Ostankino TV May 'Create Rift'

WS2103104194 Tallinn BNS in English 1312 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 19, BNS—Ending the transmission of broadcasts of the Ostankino TV channel in Estonia would create an irreparable rift between Estonia's Russian-speaking population and the government, an appeal delivered to the government by the country's Russian Assembly says.

The Estonian Government ruled to cut back from March 11 the time that Ostankino broadcasts are available to viewers in Estonia, after the Moscow television company failed to pay for the transmission of its program on Estonia's national network. The government ruling says the broadcasts will be cut off completely from March 28 if Ostankino by that date has not signed a new agreement

with the Estonian Telecommunications Company or has paid its debts for the last months.

The step would negatively affect the Russian-speakers' loyalty to the Estonia Government, Estonia's Russian Assembly says. The document also says that the assembly has already called on the respective Russian institutions to resolve the financial problems connected with the transmission of Ostankino broadcasts.

The assembly suggests that the Ostankino program be transmitted in Estonia via a cable network. The representative body says a respective agreement together with a financing project should be signed at the level of the two countries' governments.

Ostankino owes to the Estonian company about 105,000 German marks for the transmission of its broadcasts in 1993, plus some 80,000 German marks for January.

Psychiatrist Suggested for Zhirinovskiy Ally

WS1803185294 Tallinn BNS in English 1357 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, Mar 18, BNS—Estonian Defense Police Chief Juri Pihl said that the representative of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party in Estonia, Pyotr Rozhok, needs to be examined by a psychiatrist.

Pihl's remarks followed after his department on Wednesday [16 March] formally brought charges against Rozhok.

"If a person doesn't go there (to a psychiatrist) by his own will, bringing under compulsion must be implemented. The same will be done if Rozhok won't appear before investigators. Everything will be done according to the laws and Rozhok has the possibility to take a lawyer," Pihl said.

The representative of Russian radical nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's misleadingly-named Liberal Democratic Party in his speech in Narva on Jan. 25 and in an interview with the Russian-language SILLAMAESKI VESTNIK local newspaper of the northeast Estonian town of Sillamae "fanned inter-ethnic and political hostility," the indictment says. [passage omitted]

Registration of Paldiski Residents To Commence

WS2103104894 Tallinn ETA in English 0841 GMT 21 Mar 94

[From 19 March PUHAPAEVALEHT, p 6; "News Bulletin" No. 54/94]

[Text] Monday, March 21—The government intends to start registering residents of Paldiski by the end of March. The residents are to fill in special questionnaires and have their passports stamped. The move was made necessary by the refusal of the Russian military authorities to hand over the militia registration files. The registration is to concern the Russian military as well.

The joint Estonian-Russian staff exercise concerned the evacuation of the nuclear fuel from Paldiski and also studied the "black scenario" connected with possible escape of radioactive material. The Estonian side has agreed that 200 additional Russian experts with equipment be allowed to arrive in case of emergency.

Purchase of Local Ammunition Not Contemplated

WS2103105194 Tallinn ETA in English 0841 GMT 21 Mar 94

["News Bulletin" No. 54/94]

[Text] Monday, March 21—The Defence Ministry does not intend to order ammunition from local firms, ministry vice-chancellor Tarmo Milder announced. He added that state orders will depend on quality and price of the ammunition and mentioned $0.17 cartridge as an acceptable price. South African, Israeli, Chinese and South Korean enterprises have offered their cooperation to the Defence Ministry.

Cabinet Approves Plan To Raise Fuel Excise Taxes

WS2103100894 Tallinn BNS in English 1730 GMT 20 Mar 94

[From the "Baltic Business Weekly" feature]

[Text] The Estonian Cabinet approved March 17 a bill on increasing the fuel excise tax rates up to two times from the present. The draft now enters the parliament.

The draft legislation proposes raising the excise tax on gasoline from the present 0.40 kroons per liter to 0.80 kroons for ordinary gasoline, and to 0.60 kroons for gasoline containing less than 0.013 grams of lead per liter.

Introduction of different rates is aimed at encouraging car owners to use fuel less detrimental to the environment.

The excise tax on diesel fuel is to be hiked from the current 0.25 kroons to 0.50 kroons per liter. Rates for aircraft fuel, liquid gas and lubricants are to remain the same.

The government has said the step is mainly due to the need to earn an estimated additional 21.8 million kroons into the state coffers to pay higher pensions from April.

A representative at the Finance Ministry said the Estonian Oil Association, a body connecting the country's fuel companies, had agreed to the motion.

The Oil Association's managing director, Mart Kutsar, told BNS his association had not approved of the planned step. But he also said in an interview with the

ARIPAEV business newspaper that despite not approving of the step the association still understood that the hike was inevitable.

Latvia

CSCE Approves Initialling Treaty With Russia

LD1803145294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] At the plenary session of the permanent commission of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on Thursday [17 March] in Vienna, the initialling of the bilateral agreement between Latvia and Russia on the withdrawal of the Russian Army was assessed. In the name of the European Union, Greece expressed satisfaction at the fact that the 31 August this year is to be observed as the deadline for the withdrawal of the Russian Army, adding that it awaits the ratification of the treaty by the two countries' parliaments. Sweden, Finland, and Poland expressed approval of what has been achieved, and emphasized the interest of the CSCE in these issues. The representative of the United States of America also expressed his support for what was achieved at the bilateral Latvian-Russian talks, and emphasized that the support of the CSCE in Europe on the issue of the Skrunda radar station is very important to the U.S. Government.

French Envoy on 'Diplomatic Success'

WS2103101194 Tallinn BNS in English 1647 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 19, BNS—French Ambassador Jean Debenest at a meeting with Latvia's Minister of Justice Egils Levits in Riga on Friday [18 March] welcomed the initialing of a troop withdrawal treaty between Latvia and Russia. She said the treaty was a diplomatic success that greatly contributed to enhancing the security of the Baltics, the Ministry of Justice press office reports.

The Latvian minister told the French ambassador that his country will take into account the suggestions by the Council of Europe experts when taking its citizenship bill for the second reading in the parliament.

The ambassador said the public in Latvia needed to be explained that passing the bill in the suggested wording would open doors to Latvia for speedier integration with Europe. This also means that in the future the nation's security and welfare would increase and additional finances will come into the country, the French ambassador said.

Debenest also said that a former minister of justice, at present the head of the French Constitutional Court, will visit Latvia next week. One of the issues the head of the French Constitutional Court wants to learn more closely about is the current situation over adopting the Latvian citizenship law.

Papers Comment

WS1803172294 Riga LETA in English 1433 GMT 18 Mar 94

[From the "Review of Latvian Press"]

[Text] Riga, March 18 (LETA)—Latvian press of today is publishing an extensive coverage of the texts of Latvian-Russian agreements initialed in Moscow earlier this week. The daily DIENA cites the opinion expressed on the matter by Aleksandrs Kirsteins, head of the parliamentarian Foreign Committee, who claims that there were numerous discrepancies between the documents which have been initialled by the two delegations, and the draft agreements which earlier have been presented for a closer examination of members of parliament. The rights to be granted to the retired Russian militaries under the agreements Kirsteins described as "anticonstitutional". He indicated that initialing of the package of the agreements was partly a result of pressure inflicted on Russia by the United States and the Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE), while the government of the ruling parliamentarian faction "Latvijas Cels" ("Latvian Way") "automatically puts its signature under all the demands put forward by Russia". The leader of the nationalist "Latvia's National Independence Movement" faction holds the view that those at least 70 thousand officers of the KGB secret police and commissioned officers of Russian Army which have come to Latvia en masse, notably in the past recent years after combat actions in so called "hot spots", are much more dangerous for Latvia than those several thousand Russian troops. Kirsteins underscores that the two parties have not reached any agreement which would provide for the future development of relations between Russia and Latvia for the next 20 years. The Latvian negotiators did not even raise the issue about Russia's recognizing occupation of Latvia, which had already been done in 1991 by the then Supreme Council of the former Soviet Union. Kirsteins pointed out that the lack of agreements to this effect showed there were no basis laid out for guarantees providing a compensation to be paid for Latvia's property and for the Abrene region annexed by Russia. Meanwhile, Latvian Justice Minister Egils Levits said that the accord with Russia was "an important achievement of Latvian diplomats". The minister said he was certain that historians would evaluate the agreement as a successful move, citing the course of events with the pact of Latvia and Russia signed in 1920.

The package of initialled agreements between Russia and Latvia were needed by Latvian President in order to receive an entrance ticket to the St. George hall of the Kremlin, indicates an analyst with the Russian-language newspaper SM-SEGODNYA. The daily says that it was a high time for Latvian President to visit his Russian counterpart, otherwise his image of the popular figure and reconcilator can somewhat fade out, despite the urgent need for the liberals of the "Latvian Way" party

to demonstrate clearly to the West, notably to the American friends, their good will towards normalization of relations with Russia.

The evening daily RIGAS BALSS has published a public opinion poll conducted among 1,000 residents of Latvia. The participants of the poll had to chose optional answers to the question whether performance of Saeima or parliament and that of the ministers cabinet of Latvia were in accordance with interests of the Latvian people. The option "fully corresponds" was chosen by 1.3 percent of people in relation to the parliament, and by 1.2 percent - in regard to the ministers cabinet. 15.2 percent of people said that activities of both parliament and government were "generally corresponding" to the interests of the Latvian people.

Deputies Ask Ulmanis Not to Sign

LD1803182194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Twenty-two Saeima deputies have sent an open letter to State President Guntis Ulmanis appealing to him not to sign the interstate agreements initialled at the talks between Latvian and Russian delegations, providing for the functioning in Latvia for another five-and-a-half years of the Russian Federation's military site, the Skrunda radar station. The letter says that the signing and ratification of such agreements would unequivocally signify Latvia's renunciation of the justified demands it has made so far for the speedy and complete withdrawal of Russia's armed forces, also incorporated in the resolutions of the United Nations Organization and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The letter emphasizes that both the assembly of Latvian local authorities and many political and public organizations have testified to their unwillingness to legalize the activity of the Skrunda radar station on the territory of the Republic of Latvia, and demand the maintenance in force of Latvia's demand hitherto for the withdrawal of the occupying troops without additional conditions.

The deputies who signed the letter propose holding a referendum of Latvian citizens, simultaneously with the local government elections due on 29 May on their attitude to the operation of the Skrunda radar station in Latvia after 31 August this year, and call for the issue of concluding the treaty with Russia not to be debated before the collection of the referendum results. The letter is signed by 22 deputies of various factions in the Saeima, among them Maris Grinblats, the leader of For the Fatherland and Freedom; Aida Predele, the leader of the Christian Democrats; deputy Oskars Griks of the Peasants' Union; deputy Karlis Leiskalns of the Democratic Party; deputies Odisejs Kostanda, Eduards Berklavs, Aristids Lambergs, Andrejs Krastins of the Latvian National Independence Movement; and other deputies.

Ministry on Integration Into European Transit

WS2103103994 Tallinn BNS in English 1312 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 19, BNS—Latvian transport must integrate into the European transport network, after joint transport policy is worked out among Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, Communications Ministry Strategic Planning Department director, Aleksandrs Konosevics, told at a press conference.

The European Union (EU) plans to form a united system of transportation by year 2000 involving also the East European states in it. The present EU transport policy is based on market economy and free competition, drawing in private capital.

Latvian Communications Ministry has to draft a program on Latvia's transport system integration into European transport network. It must be done by 3rd European conference of communications ministers, taking place after two years.

Konosevics explained the ministry's specialists will take into account EU standards and experience when working out Latvian transport policy. EU pays much attention to traffic precaution measures and ecology. Besides, the European states do not subsidize public transport.

Lithuania

Jursenas on Treaty With Poland, Peacekeepers

LD1803151494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Important international events were discussed at a news conference in the Seimas today. Guoda Salciute reports:

[Salciute] The Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas commented at a news conference on today's events. They are the initialing of the Lithuanian-Polish Treaty in Warsaw and a meeting of the military representatives of the Baltic States in preparing a joint peace-keeping battalion.

[Begin Jursenas recording] How the coincidence of these two events can be explained, or how should one explain this? I think that the main thing here is our advance toward Europe. Both events are linked with our joining European, Western and world structures. I dare to state on this occasion that we ensure the continuity of Lithuanian foreign policy, of an independent state, starting with 11 March 1990 up to this day. We are convinced that one of the most important things that must be ensured for our state are its security and its stability. Both internal means and the corresponding means of international policy are needed for this purpose.

Thus the regulation of relations with our neighbors, the existence of good, normal and friendly relations with our neighbors are exceptionally important in the sense of our

internal situation, too. If we speak of real advance in Europe, but not of a declaration or nice words, then my dear ones, nobody is waiting for us in Europe, nobody is waiting for us who quarrel with neighbors, who are not reconciled with neighbors, who have not eliminated some conflicts. Europe is not waiting for such, it has enough of its own problems and suffers because of the former Yugoslavia or some other situations. Thus we can more successfully join European structures and can take part in the creation of a new Europe only if we regulate as far as we can our relations with our neighbors.

Our previous governments have accomplished a great deal in this direction, I greatly appreciate this, and what they did not manage to accomplish or what they have started, like, for example, a Lithuanian-Polish declaration signed by esteemed Saudargas [former Lithuanian foreign minister] and esteemed Skubiszewski, what the previous government did not manage to accomplish, we are doing this. [end recording]

[Salciute] Having assessed the Lithuanian-Polish Treaty, Jursenas also dealt with the hue and cry by some politicians in Lithuania about this document, with meetings and pickets, with a statement by six parties. Having stressed juridical involuntariness [as heard] of this statement, Jursenas asked which experts write such statements.

The Seimas chairman also spoke at the news conference about the first days of the Seimas spring session. Although only three days have passed, two capital laws have been adopted: On land and on the reliability of the litas. Asked by journalists whether he himself had confidence in the litas, Jursenas replied that he had and will have confidence in the litas, which has undergone many tests.

Jursenas, Olechowski Welcome Treaty

LD1903091994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2200 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Following talks that lasted nearly two years, Lithuania and Poland have initialled a bilateral treaty on good neighborliness and cooperation. Upon initialling the treaty in Warsaw on Friday [18 March] the Lithuanian and Polish foreign ministers stressed that the treaty was of vital importance to both sides while [words indistinct]. According to Polish Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski the treaty opened a new page in bilateral relations between Lithuania and Poland. Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said that some time would still be required to understand the importance of this document.

The text of the treaty will be made public as soon as it is signed by the presidents of the two states. The signing of the document is expected to take place in [word indistinct] April.

Pulokas Signs Disaster Aid Pact in Germany

WS2103100494 Vilnius ELTA in English 1942 GMT 21 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 460]

[Text] Vilnius, March 18, ELTA—Deputy Defence Minister Gediminas Pulokas returned from Bonn on Friday [18 March].

He signed Lithuanian-German agreement on mutual help in cases of calamities. The agreement also provides for main volunteer aid conditions which encompass sending rescue groups, experts and aid materials.

The main directions of the cooperation were discussed during the meeting of representatives of the both sides which was held on March 16. Lithuanians were invited to participate in the joint civilian security training exercises which will be held at the beginning of May.

Sweden Allocates Funds for Ignalina Safety

LD1803134694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] The Swedish state nuclear energy inspection has acquired funds that will be destined to ensure the safety of the Ignalina nuclear power station.

The Swedish Government yesterday allocated for this purpose 17 million kroner from the budget of the foreign affairs department. Another 10 million kroner has been allocated by the nature protection department. A control service taking care of the safety of the nuclear power station is to be formed in Lithuania. A part of the Swedish fund will be used for this service's needs.

Arms Probe Prompts Numerous Raids By Police

WS1803205494 Tallinn BNS in English 1904 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 18, BNS—More than 40 searches were carried out throughout Vilnius Thursday [17 March] night in apartments of former and present Lithuanian Defense Ministry employees, including former Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius, who currently studies in London.

In an interview on Lithuanian TV, Lithuanian Prosecutor General Arturas Paulauskas said the searches are related to the investigation of financial violations in the purchase of weapons for the Lithuanian army. The investigation was started in January.

Paulauskas declined to comment on the investigation but promised to inform about the results of the Thursday searches "in a matter of two days."

According to unofficial reports, the police arrested Vladas Laurinavicius, president of the Kaunas-based

association Selma, which in 1992-1993 acted as a mediator in the purchase of weapons for Lithuanian defense forces.

The investigation established that the Lithuanian Defense Ministry paid unrealistic prices for automatic rifles, frigates and helicopters sold by Selma. Besides, the payments were made in cash, which is contrary to the law. Millions of then Lithuanian provisional money, also called talonas, and Russian rubles were paid personally to the association's president, who has several previous convictions and spent 5 years in jail.

Selma also builds housing for Russian servicemen withdrawing from the Baltic states.

Paulauskas said the unfavorable conditions for buying weapons at that time should be taken into account, but in his opinion, the financial violations cannot be ignored. He said "the investigation will establish whether (Defense Ministry) officials had any selfish incentives."

Paper on Provisions of Firearms Law, Amnesty

WS1803165394 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 11 Mar 94 No. 48 p 8

[Article by Audrius Lingys: "Armed and Extremely Dangerous"—first paragraph is RESPUBLIKA introduction]

[Excerpts] The law "On Permit for Acquiring, Keeping, and Carrying of Firearms" comes into effect on 1 April. Under this law, Lithuanian citizens will be able to buy combat pistols or revolvers in stores. Last week, the government approved the rules for acquiring combat firearms.

Thus, you will be able to buy a combat firearm as of 1 April. You will have to write an application to the interior minister explaining your motive and take it to a police station. You will have to attach a medical certification stating that your health condition allows you to keep a firearm. [passage omitted]

Following an inspection, the police station will have to pass your file over to the Interior Ministry within 20 days. You will not receive a permit if you were convicted for premeditated or casual crimes committed by using firearms, gas arms, or explosives, if you are on probation, or if you are undergoing a punishment other than imprisonment.

Nor will permits be issued to people who experienced administrative punishments for using or keeping drugs, for violating hunting and fishing rules, for keeping firearms and ammunition, and other offenses the nature of which suggests that firearms can be the instrument of a crime.

The Interior Ministry will not issue permits to incapable people, alcoholics and drug users, mentally affected persons, those who tried to commit suicides, as well as people with physical disabilities that could prevent the safe keeping and using of firearms.

Permits will not be issued to people who are on the preventive and operative register with the police, as well as to those who will not pass a theoretical and practical examination arranged by the police station.

If you have not violated the law, you will receive a permit to ACQUIRE firearms. The permit will be valid for six months, and you will have to buy a firearm within that time. If you fail to do so, you will have to repeat the entire procedure again.

This permit does not grant you the right to carry a firearm. Therefore, you will have to apply to the Interior Ministry within five days after the purchase of a firearm for a permit to CARRY that firearm. The latter document, made of special paper, will have your photo, name, personal code, and vital information about the firearm. You will have to carry this permit together with the firearm. [passage omitted]

There is only one store in Vilnius, subordinate to the Arms Fund, that is selling combat firearms for now. The government adopted such a decision because the police want to put tough controls on all arms imported into Lithuania. All firearms on sale will be tested by the police, and the information will be stored in a special catalog. The law allows you to acquire firearms of a caliber not exceeding 9 mm and with the weak firing power. Such firearms are expected to cost no less than $300. You will also be able to acquire 50 cartridges along with the firearm.

Before you put the firearm in your pocket, the police will visit your apartment and become convinced that you have a metal safe that will make your gun inaccessible. Moreover, the police will have the right to enter your apartment at any time and repeatedly check on security conditions.

You will be able to use the firearm to defend yourself, other people, property, the inviolability of your place of residence, other rights, the interests of society or the state, to prevent a direct threat or the appropriation of the firearm without overstepping the limits of necessary defense, to shoot an animal attacking a human being or posing a threat to the environment, or to call for help. In all these cases, you will be able to fire only after firing a warning shot into the air.

The latter will be unnecessary if the attack is unexpected or if the aggressor is armed. Every such shot will have to be reported to the police.

The law forbids firing at places of people's assemblies if this can harm outsiders, as well as at women, minor children, and handicapped people with distinct signs of

disability, except those cases when they themselves attack and threaten with firearms.

Your firearms will undergo test firings at police stations every three years. You will also have to undergo a repeated medical examination to extend your permit.

You will be able to carry firearms only on the territory of Lithuania. If you are detained at the border, your firearm will be confiscated. If you need your firearm while travelling abroad, you will have to apply to officials of that country and receive their permission. You will have to show this permit to the Lithuanian Interior Ministry and get another one allowing you take the firearm abroad.

Incidentally, people who voluntarily return illegally kept arms to the police by 1 April, will not only remain unpunished, but will also receive compensation and be granted a chance to acquire a legal firearm. No compensation will be paid after 1 April. [passage omitted]

Although the law was prepared by the Interior Ministry, it seems that no one listened to its opinion on the expediency of this document. Those deputies who had treaded many doorsteps at the ministry when requesting personal arms for themselves showed particular effort in "pushing the law through" the Seimas [parliament]. Having received a negative answer, they must have decided to arm everyone.